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INTO HARM'S WAY

How America's law enforcement officers have stepped up! **BY BRIAN HAUGHTON**



By now, many folks in this country are familiar with the term for law enforcement known as the “thin blue line.” The expression is best described as police officers standing as a line between good and evil, or protecting society against the criminals. But in this post-9/11 world, with an alarming amount of active-shooter incidents as well as the recent terrorist attack in Boston, police officers have responded to these assaults on society with great courage. So, I suggest a new phrase based on the old one, with just a slight tweak, from the thin blue line to the “bold blue line.”

Why “bold” you may ask? Let’s look at the definition for bold. The Oxford dictionary defines “bold” as “showing an ability to take risks; confident and courageous.” Bold is certainly an appropriate way to explain the actions of police officers, why they act the way they do every day, and how they can make a difference.

There is a police counselor in my department who addresses recruits in the academy about their new chosen profession. He refers to the small percentage of people in society, like those men and women who join the ranks of the military and policing, who run toward danger (like the sound of gunfire) while the majority of people would flee in the opposite direction of a threat. He also describes to these future officers the famous account of the 300 Spartans at the battle of Thermopylae in Greece in 480 BC who fought bravely against the much larger force of Persian invaders. Although the small army from Sparta lost the battle, their heroic deeds that day, fighting to the death, inspired the rest of the Greek city-states to unite and rally to victory over the foreign occupiers. Similarly, this reminds me of all the men and women of law enforcement who have paid the ultimate sacrifice over the years, as shining examples of the greatest love, to have given their lives in defense of another.

Running Towards Gunfire

Shortly after the tragedy at the Navy Yard in our nation’s capital, Bob Lonsberry, a radio talk show host at WHAM 1180 out of Rochester, New York, wrote a great commentary on the response of the police officers to this active-shooter event. It is entitled “The Cops Amaze Me.” If Lonsberry were a composer, his commentary would hit all the right notes. He expresses his amazement at those brave officers and how they did their job. Patrol officers, of various colors, ages and both genders, speeding to the scene of a gunman taking lives. From the start of a sleepy Monday morning to entering a real-world battlefield, in the blink of an eye, to then close with the enemy and kill him, ending the carnage. Lonsberry’s complete work can be found online, and I encourage people to read it. Pretty amazing indeed are those in the bold blue line and deal with the unpredictable nature of police work on a daily basis.

Bold are the cops who stopped a killer from firing at innocent worshipers at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. Bold are those officers who entered a darkened movie theater in Colorado to arrest a madman. Bold are the police who rescued children from a murderer on the loose in a Connecticut elementary school. Bold are the men and women of law enforcement who ended a terrorist’s rampage in Fort Hood, Texas. Unfortunately, due to the amount of horrific events these days, the examples are numerous of bold police officers confronting any menace.

I’ve been an officer for 20 years now, and what stands out over that time is the strong camaraderie found in this line of work and the privilege I have to work closely with some who are no longer with us, those who have given their all in the line of duty. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., pays tribute to the fallen with close to 20,000 names listed on its granite walls. Also inscribed on the memorial is a reading from Proverbs 28:1 that hammers home my point. It reads, “The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion.” I could not agree more wholeheartedly with Mr. Lonsberry’s thoughts—that these cops amaze me, too!

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Publisher
Stanley R. Harris

Executive Publisher
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Group Publisher
Shirley Steffen

Associate Publisher
Karin Levine

Managing Editor
Linas Cernauskas

Assistant Editor
Greg Lickenbrock

Editorial Assistant
Richard Ortega

Art Director
James Allocca

Cover Design
Socrates Gomez

Contributors

Dennis Adler, Massad Ayoob, David Bahde, William Bell, Todd Burgreen, Richard Johnson, Gary Paul Johnston, David Kenik, Fred Mastison, Robert A. Sadowski, Paul Scarlata, Sean Utley, Steve Woods

Director Digital and Mobile Publishing Kim Shay

Circulation Director Tim Hannon

Social Media Director Claudia Bircu

Advertising Representative Leticia Henry

Advertising Production Manager Heila Nir

Advertising Coordinator Emily Boland

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Harris Tactical Group
1115 Broadway, New York, NY 10010
Phone: 212-807-7100; Fax: 212-463-9958

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Retail/Dealer Sales:
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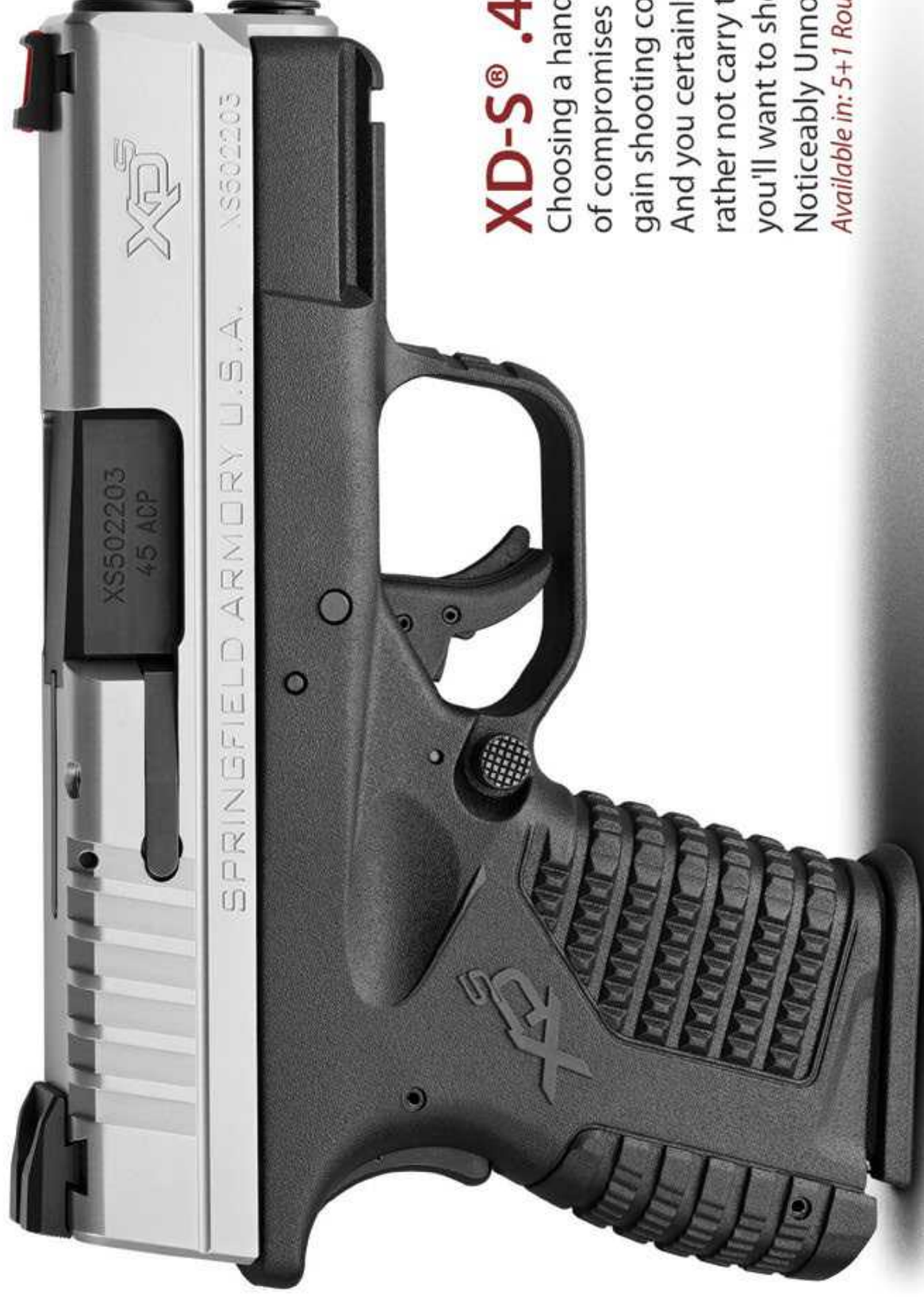


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**TWELVE PUMP-ACTION AND
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ANY MISSION!**

By Richard Johnson



LEARNING FROM THE RODNEY KING RIOTS

Life-saving lessons to learn from riots where more than 50 people died and as many as 2,000 were injured.



BY MASSAD AYOOB

When an armed robbery parolee named Rodney King fled from the California Highway Patrol, the high-speed pursuit ended in the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Police Department. When LAPD officers attempted to take him into custody, he resisted, lunging for one officer's pistol. A sergeant on the scene Tased him without effect, and patrolmen struck him with batons until he submitted, a sequence caught on videotape by a private citizen.

The ugliest 10 seconds of the tape were played repeatedly on national television, outraging the nation. Four of the LAPD personnel were criminally charged. The case had powerful racial overtones: All four officers were Caucasian, while King was African-American.

A jury acquitted the officers on May 1, 1992. Within an hour of the verdict, mass unrest was evident, and within hours the worst riot in the city's history was underway. It would last for several days, claiming 53 lives, injuring as many as 2,000 people and causing up to \$1 billion in property damage. Public anger led to a federal trial of the four officers, two of whom were convicted and served time in prison. The lessons

of the incident are many. Some of those lessons most pertinent to future first responding officers follow.

BETTER TRAINING

With some 7,000 officers to train and keep certified, the LAPD had decided it could not afford the manufacturer's recommended 16-hour training program with the Monadnock PR-24 baton and cut the lesson plan in half, keeping the impact techniques but dispensing with arm locks and takedowns. Nationwide, PR-24 instructors were almost unanimous in their collective opinion that had a single officer been able to move in and execute a takedown or handcuffing arm lock, the incident would have quickly



The Rodney King riots are as relevant today as they were 23 years ago. Proper officer training and community outreach can prevent such incidents.

Big Stock Photo

ended with little or no injury to King, and if the videotape had seen the light of the media at all, it would have been as an accolade to highly trained police using a minimum of force. Instead, knowing only strikes, they swung the batons at a very large, powerful man until he'd had enough and stopped resisting, creating the visual illusion of an unnecessary, brutal beating.

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”



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THE RODNEY KING RIOTS



Lasting several days, the 1992 Los Angeles riots resulted in an estimated \$1 billion in property damage.

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Moreover, many of the PR-24 power spins, “power strokes” in LAPD parlance, were not in fact full power. Most were swung only with the officers’ arms. Two of the involved officers later told me that they had not been taught to use their hips to strike with maximum force, predictably resulting in more blows having to be delivered.

A 50-percent reduction in baton-training time had ultimately resulted in something with far greater, indeed tragic, costs.

Many rank-and-file LAPD officers later insisted that they were ready to move in to quell the disturbance at its beginning, but were held back by the orders of superiors. Then-Chief Daryl Gates would later tell *Time* magazine, “When I got down there, I couldn’t find a police officer. I jumped all over the (captains) down there and then they broke down the fences trying to get out there. It took me five or six hours to put enough fear in my top commanders to get

things moving. Once we did, it was over within 72 hours.”

One reason the 1992 conflagration has not been repeated in Los Angeles is that the LAPD learned from the experience. Policy was set in place to respond to such things with more alacrity and decisiveness.

With an overwhelmed police force unable to immediately protect them, many merchants in the heart of the looting and burning frenzy armed themselves to protect their

“Allegations of police brutality today are more likely to be met early, perhaps with press conferences in which video evidence is shown and explained in freeze frame.”

own businesses. Their gunfire contributed to the death toll. There were many who would say later that only their show of armed force kept their businesses from being burned to the ground, and kept their employees from being killed. (Please turn to page 94)



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5.56 FEEDING FRENZY



Battle-tested AR magazines to keep you in the fight!

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

Sometimes overlooked, the lowly magazine can truly make or break a gun in the field. Bad magazines can introduce reliability problems, forcing you to clear malfunctions rather than put rounds on target. For AR-platform rifles, this is as true as it is for any other weapon system. Fortunately, there is a plethora of magazines on the market that combine reliability with a broad spectrum of enhancements. Modern AR magazines are made from a variety of materials, are available in a range of finishes, and can be had with all kinds of internals.

One of the most basic distinctions among AR magazines is the body material. Stainless steel, aluminum and polymer are all available, and each has its own benefits and limitations. Likewise, the follower and spring vary from magazine to magazine. While nearly all AR magazines use a follower that claims to be "tilt resistant," not all are equally good. Some companies offer reliability enhancement kits that allow you to upgrade the floorplate, follower and spring in your existing magazines.

Magazine finishes rarely impact the reliability of the magazine, but an improperly applied finish can cause the magazine to hang in the well instead of dropping free. Also, certain colors or patterns may be more appropriate for your uses. A street cop, for example, is probably not going to use a non-standard gray or black color for uniform reasons. Likewise, a tactical unit may opt for a green or brown magazine to offer better concealment for their typical operating environments.

There are a great many choices in AR magazines, and this is a list to get you started in your search for the best mags to meet your needs.

AMMUNITION STORAGE COMPONENTS

Ammunition Storage Components (ASC) offers a number of different metal-body magazines for the AR platform. At its most basic, the 5.56mm product line offers magazines with both aluminum and stainless steel bodies. Each has capacity, color and follower options to meet the officer's specific needs. I've used both the aluminum and stainless steel 30-round magazines and found them to be well made and reliable with a wide range of AR-platform rifles and pistols. (ammosc.com; 860-225-3548)



BROWNELLS

Perhaps best known as an incredible resource for gunsmiths, Brownells also manufactures a line of aluminum AR-15 magazines. Offered with the Magpul Enhanced Self-Leveling Follower, these magazines offer incredible performance at a reasonable price. I've owned and used about a dozen of these magazines for the past five years and have gotten great service from them. I cannot recall a single incident in which these magazines caused or contributed to a malfunction. They can also be had with the Magpul Ranger Plate as an option. (brownells.com; 800-741-0015)



LANCER SYSTEMS

Lancer makes a variety of hybrid magazines for the 5.56mm NATO AR-15 in the L5AWM series. For these magazines, Lancer uses a polymer body with a steel feed lip assembly to offer increased durability while keeping the overall weight down. The steel component is finished in matte black, while the body is offered in translucent clear, translucent smoke, black, olive drab, flat dark earth and foliage green. The standard capacity is 30 rounds, but 20-, 10- and five-round magazines are also available. (lancer-systems.com; 610-973-2600)



MAGPUL INDUSTRIES

Without a doubt, Magpul's Gen M2/MOE and Gen M3 PMAGs are very popular. These polymer magazines are durable and equally reliable while still being competitively priced. The company offers a range of PMAGs from 10-round magazines up to its latest 60-round model. Its most popular magazine, the Gen 3PMAG 30, can be had in a number of colors and with or without a clear witness window to estimate the number of remaining rounds. The PMAG uses one of the most reliable followers available today. (magpul.com; 877-462-4785)



SUREFIRE

SureFire products have served the LE community for decades, and its magazines offer continued service in an era where responding to terrorism is a reality. The company offers high-capacity mags that hold 60 and 100 rounds, respectively. The 60-round mag is an excellent alternative to a pair of coupled 30-round mags. It eliminates the downtime associated with changing mags, all while being smaller than two mags clipped together. Anodized aluminum is used for the mag bodies while cadmium-coated springs and nested followers provide smooth feeding. (surefire.com; 800-828-8809)



TANGODOWN

TangoDown threw out conventional thinking when the company developed the ARC magazine. With a new approach centered on performance, TangoDown's ARC eliminated the traditional floorplate to enhance strength and durability. The exterior of the polymer body was reshaped to ensure positive magazine extraction, while the interior dimensions ensure proper ammunition feeding. The impact-resistant body is uniquely textured to provide a solid grip and can be had in traditional black or Flat Dark Earth colors. (tangodown.com; 909-392-4757)



COMMAND ARMS ACCESSORIES

Command Arms Accessories (CAA) offers a pair of polymer magazines that are designed to help an officer keep track of available rounds. The Countdown magazine has a visual indicator on its spine that gives the precise number of loaded rounds. The numbers are color coded for a quick reference on when a mag change may be in order. The Clear Action magazine uses a witness window on the side of the magazine for a quick visual estimation of the loaded rounds. It also has a button that pops out on the bottom when fully loaded for a tactile confirmation of the round count. (commandarms.com; 866-611-9576)



HEXMAG

A sure grip sets the magazines from Hexmag apart from much of its competition. The HX30-AR is a lightweight 30-round magazine that has a hexagonal pattern molded into the polymer body. Alone, the pattern provides a good grip on the magazine. With the company's special Grip Tape, the magazines are unlikely to slip from your grip even in the worst weather conditions. In addition to the various body colors, Hexmag also offers a Color Identification System on the follower and floorplate to help organize loaded magazines when stored. I've got a number of these magazines in my personal collection, and I've found them to be very reliable. (hexmag.com; 970-460-2000)



MISSION FIRST TACTICAL

Introduced in early 2015, Mission First Tactical's MFT Mags are polymer magazines with small refinements that make a big difference. The self-lubricating, four-way anti-tilt follower is run by a stainless steel spring for reliable action and long-term durability. The floorplate is flared to enhance manual extraction and to provide additional impact resistance if dropped. MFT Mags have stipple texturing and low-profile ribs for a good grip in all weather conditions. (missionfirsttactical.com; 267-704-0001)



PROMAG INDUSTRIES

The new Rollermag is a 30-round magazine that uses guided rollers on the follower to ensure friction-free feeding. The follower movement is very smooth, and the design prevents any tilting. ProMag uses durable chrome-silicon springs for long-term ammunition storage. The impact-resistant polymer body is textured for a positive grip. The Rollermag is made in the U.S.A. and comes with a lifetime warranty. (promagindustries.com; 800-438-2547)



TAPCO

The Intrafuse Gen II magazine uses the same durable polymer body as the first-generation magazine and incorporates a number of reliability enhancements to make these the best AR magazines TAPCO has ever made. The mags use a redesigned follower with a reshaped, premium stainless steel spring to provide improved feeding and ease of loading. According to TAPCO, the spring redesign has eliminated spine cracks when the magazine is stored fully loaded. Additionally, the company states that the redesign ensures the mags will drop free when ejected. (tapco.com; 800-554-1445)



TROY

TROY Industries manufactures a high-quality polymer magazine called the BattleMag. Available in both 10- and 30-round capacities, the BattleMag has reinforced lips to prevent the polymer from spreading when storing it loaded. TROY designed the floorplate with the pull tab to be flush with the magazine body so that it does not catch on other magazines or gear when it is pulled from a mag pouch. With each magazine, TROY includes an extended floorplate lock that absorbs the recoil of impact when the mag is dropped. The magazines are available in black, Flat Dark Earth, coyote tan and OD green. (troyind.com; 866-788-6412)



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ANATOMY OF A GUNFIGHT



What it takes to win a shootout and walk away in one piece!

BY FRED MASTISON

It's high noon as a tumbleweed blows across the dusty street. Two men stand facing each other with cold steel eyes. In an instant, they draw and the gunfight is on. Within the blink of an eye, it is over.

This is the classic image we share when the term "gunfight" is mentioned. While historically accurate, gunfights often are less of a standoff and more of a rapidly developing fight over any variety of reasons. While the weapons and garb have changed over the ages, the mechanics and principles of gunfighting have not.

LIFESAVING LESSONS

Over the years, many of the most successful gunfighters in the world have quietly shared their philosophies and principles of surviving the fight. From these rare texts we can harvest what can be seen as the



cornerstones of gunfighting. First up is decisiveness. The phrase "hesitation will get you killed" is not just a clever cliché. It is a fact. Nestled inside that mindset, though, is

the deep-seeded willingness to be violent. While this may seem obvious, it is one of the major factors behind hesitation. Violence of action many times will determine the outcome of a lethal confrontation.

Another constant seen is "calmness in action." This principle, in fact, is seen in warrior cultures around the world. The samurai considered calmness in action a cornerstone for sword fighting. A calm mind allows for fluid thought and decision-making. It allows you to more easily make tactical decisions that can determine the outcome of the encounter.

One recurring component that surprises some people is that controlled and aimed fire wins the day. One of the most well-known gunfighters in history was Wyatt Earp. While not known for his large number of gunfights, he was involved in some of the most historically memorable fights. In a rare

While movies often depict Old West duels as "stand and deliver" affairs, you'll need to move and shoot accurately to survive a gunfight.





interview, he shared his thoughts on gunfighting. What is so profound is that the interview and the information it provides are as relevant today as they were back then. He states, "Shooting, to them, was considerably more than aiming at a mark and pulling a trigger. Models of weapons, methods of wearing them, means of getting them into action and operating them, all to the one end of combining high speed with absolute accuracy, contributed to the frontiersman's shooting skill. The sought after degree of proficiency was that which could turn to most effective account the split-second between life and death. Hours upon hours of practice

"I am not looking for a fight, but if one comes my way I will act with extreme violence and prevail."

and wide experience in actualities supported their arguments over style. The most important lesson I learned from those proficient gunfighters was the winner of a gunplay usually was the man who took his time. The second was that, if I hoped to live long on the frontier, I would shun flashy trick-shooting—grandstand play—as I would poison."

ALWAYS MOVING

Another point to consider in gunfighting is movement. Your ability to shoot on the move separates you from average shooters. Once you become mobile, you are dramatically harder to hit. Throw into that the fact that you are engaging while moving and you quickly rise to the top of the food chain. By moving, you force your adversary to adjust to you, and in doing so, they are relegated to a defensive posture. While stances and foot positions are good for beginning shooters, the idea of "stand and deliver" can be problematic when rounds are coming at you. Few people have the ability to hold their

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ANATOMY OF A GUNFIGHT

ground in that way once they realize bullets are flying. It is better to move as a plan as opposed to shooting over your shoulder while retreating in panic.

The last point that is a common thread is awareness. By being plugged into your environment, you can better identify potential problems and in turn react more quickly to

danger. This is especially true in an age of technological obsession. Fifteen minutes in any airport or mall will showcase countless numbers of people utterly unaware of their surroundings because they are staring at their phones or tablets. While it may be “just the way things are,” it is a dangerous mentality with possible lethal consequences.

For those serious about this business, you must be plugged into your environment and soaking in what is going on around you.

The anatomy of a gunfight is composed of many moving parts. Most are not as dra-

There's no guarantee you'll be standing during the fight. Practice shooting from all positions!



It's important to practice drawing and firing at close distances, where most gunfights occur.

matic or cool as many hope. What it usually comes down to are solid fundamentals and an ability to bring those skills to bear under great stress. This ability comes only through preparing your mind and accepting that cold hard truth: “I am not looking for a fight, but if one comes my way I will act with extreme violence and prevail.” This is the mindset of a gunfighter looking to survive.



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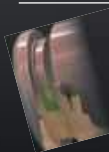
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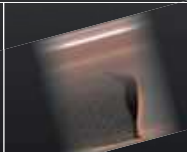
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HARD-



Windham's R16SFST-308 offers extra range, power and reliability. Shown with a Vortex 4-16x50mm Viper scope, a Steiner DBAL-I² laser and an RRA stock.

CHARGING

.308



Windham Weaponry's newest big bore leads the way with power and speed!

By David Bahde • Photos by Steve Woods

The rise of the .308/7.62mm NATO AR continues,

with new models hitting the market regularly. Just like 5.56mm NATO rifles, as new and better models arrive, the prices are only getting better. Of course, this opens the market to more buyers. Many want a simple rifle that is reliable, accurate and durable, and in law enforcement, these criteria are essential.

For many agencies, 5.56mm ARs are fine, but some want more power and range. The .308 /7.62mm fits this bill nicely, as it's been used in precision rifles for decades and there are dozens of proven ammo loadings on the market. Lately,

demand has spiked for a 16-inch-barreled 7.62mm AR suitable for use as a patrol rifle. This would make a rifle short enough for work

in an urban environment while remaining effective out

to 500 yards and beyond—all while providing

substantial firepower. The rifle also

needs to be accurate,

but its reliability

with standard

duty ammo is

absolutely

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WINDHAM .308

Optics and red-dot sights are all but mandatory these days, so the rifle needs to accommodate them. And what about a handguard that accepts accessories like lights, lasers and slings without being too bulky? It looks like Windham Weaponry has answered the call.

NO NONSENSE

The new R16SFST-308 is a no-nonsense direct-impingement rifle chambered in 7.62mm NATO, meaning it can use both .308 and 7.62mm NATO ammo. The upper and lower receivers are forged from 7075-T6 aluminum, and the upper houses a 16.5-inch, 4150M chrome-moly-vanadium barrel with a chrome-lined bore and chamber. Its 1-in-10-inch twist rate will stabilize a wide range of bullets. The muzzle sports an A2-style flash suppressor.

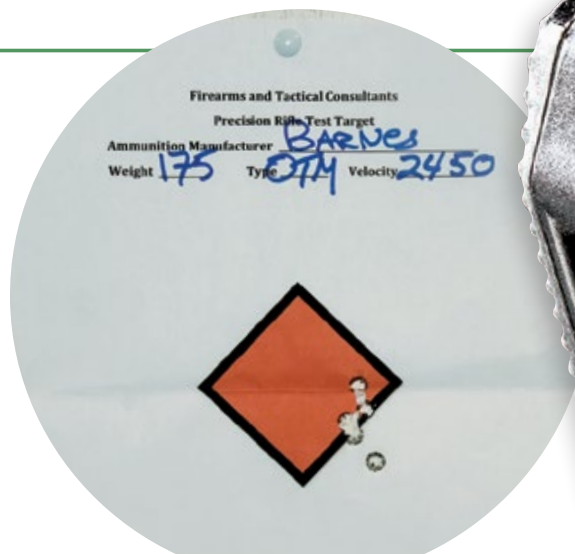
The bolt is made from Carpenter 158 steel for maximum strength and reliability.



The lower receiver, forged from 7075-T6 aluminum, features standard AR controls as well as an integral triggerguard.

ty. Surrounding the barrel and mid-length gas system is a Midwest Industries 15-inch KeyMod handguard. Along with a full-length Picatinny rail at 12 o'clock, rails and accessories can be mounted as needed along the sides and bottom. Quick-detach (QD) sling cups are included at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions at the front of the handguard as well as on the left and right sides at the rear.

The lower receiver features a beveled magazine well and an integral triggerguard. A Hogue OverMolded grip is installed along with a six-position commercial buffer tube. A standard (short) DPMS-style buffer is used. The adjust-



WINDHAM WEAPONRY R16SFST-308

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 7.62mm NATO
Barrel: 16.5 inches
OA Length: 34.2-38 inches
Weight: 7.65 pounds (empty)
Stock: Collapsible • **Sights:** None
Action: Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish: Matte black
Capacity: 20+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,645

PERFORMANCE

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Barnes 175 OTM	2,450	1.10
Federal M118 LR	2,440	1.33
Gorilla 175 OTM	2,429	1.25
Hornady 155 TAP	2,510	1.30

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.

The upper and lower receivers fit together tightly for optimum accuracy, and the Hogue grip enhanced control.

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WINDHAM .308

able buttstock features Windham Weaponry's logo and a sling loop at the heel. More sling-mounting options include the QD sling cups built into the rear of the lower receiver on both sides.

All of the controls, including the safety selector, charging handle and trigger, are standard AR fare, and the R16SFST-308 will accept many after-market triggers. My test rifle arrived in a hard plastic case with one 20-round Magpul PMAG, two short KeyMod accessory rails and a sling with a QD swivel.

For sighting, I added a U.S. Optics SR-8 1-8X scope with an illuminated Horus H50 reticle. At 1X magnification, this scope can be used at CQB distances yet facilitates wind and elevation holds at longer distances. An Alamo Four Star QD mount held the scope solidly in place and ensured the scope retained its zero after being removed and reattached.

I also replaced the standard stock with a Rock River Arms Tactical CAR stock, which provides a small butt pad, a wide cheek weld and numerous QD sling-mounting positions, and added a Blue Force Gear Vickers sling to carry the rifle and shoot from several positions. Along with the included PMAG, I used some Brownells aluminum .308/7.62mm AR magazines.

RAINING LEAD

Accuracy is certainly important in a patrol rifle, but never at the expense of reliability. Having tested dozens of 7.62mm ARs over the years, the accuracy of most rifles has improved exponentially. Many standard rifles today are more accurate than precision rifles of yesteryear. Reliability? Not so much, as some will simply not run certain types of ammunition. Law enforcement agencies primarily issue ammunition ranging from 155 to 175 grains with either a polymer-tip or open-tip match (OTM) bullet, so this rifle needed to run them all—and it did.

Testing started with the two Brownells magazines loaded with Black Hills'

The Midwest Industries forend sports a long top rail with KeyMod slots along the sides and bottom for accessories.



155-grain A-MAX ammunition, my preferred duty load.

I also used magazines from Magpul, Lancer, LaRue Tactical and DPMS loaded with ammunition ranging from old Federal 125-grain rounds to 175-grain OTMs and 180-grain AccuBonds. Each contained 10 rounds and was lined up on a table. They were all fired at a moderate rate at a 15-yard target from off-hand, pausing only long enough to reload. There wasn't a single malfunction, and all of the shots fell into an 8-inch cluster. Just as importantly, the ejection pattern was very consistent, creating a rather large pile of cases at about 3 o'clock. Wearing tactical gloves, the handguard did get a bit warm but not uncomfortable given about 100 rounds fired at a steady pace. From a practical perspective, the R16SFST-308 ran the ammo at a pace and quantity exceeding most practical law enforcement conditions.

The R16SFST-308's accuracy was excellent, especially with the 175-grain match loads. Barnes' new Precision



For top-notch durability and reliability, Windham outfits the R16SFST-308 with a bolt made from Carpenter 158 steel.

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WINDHAM .308



The author installed a Rock River Arms Tactical CAR stock on the six-position buffer tube for the range testing.

Match 175 OTM produced the best group, which measuring just a bit over an inch at 100 yards. Fired from prone and using a bag as a rest, there was some consistent vertical stringing on my part, but this replicates real-world engagements. Sure, you can use a bipod on a patrol rifle, but you're more likely to rest the rifle against a barricade, bag or other

“...the R16SFST-308
ran better than some rifles
I've tested with price tags
much higher.”

naturally occurring support. If a bench presented itself during an active-shooter situation, my guess is this rifle would shoot sub-1-inch groups all day long.

Since agencies choosing this caliber may need to make shots at longer ranges, I tested this rifle out to 400 yards. Once zeroed, I used my Applied Ballistics Kestrel was for appropriate holds at 150, 200, 250, 300, and 400 yards. I then engaged 8-inch, steel IPSC silhouettes targets every 50 yards and “walked” my way out to 400 yards. I only missed due to wind at 300 yards. Given a steady 15- to 20-mph wind, that wasn't bad at all, at least for me. In (Please turn to page 94)

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GUN TEST

SEEK-N-



By Richard Johnson

Seekins Precision steps up to the hard-hitting 7.62mm with its new SP10!



PRECISION. If ever a company's name could describe its products, this is the case.

From the scope rings that first helped launch the company to the high-quality rifles made today, Seekins Precision has a history of building top-notch shooting products that deliver rounds on target. Precision is an apt description of the company's SP10 rifle. It is an AR-style rifle chambered in 7.62mm

NATO that provides incredible performance.

Many police department snipers employ rifles chambered for the 7.62mm NATO to handle the "must make" shots in high-danger situations. The combination of accuracy and power inherent in the round make it a very good choice in many situations. Matching a rifle to the capabilities of the round is incredibly important. Many sniper teams have relied on bolt-action guns to make these types of shots. How-

ever, there are a number of units that prefer the benefits of a semi-automatic rifle when lives are on the line.

If your team needs a .30-caliber rifle that can provide extremely good accuracy from a semi-automatic platform, let me introduce the SP10.

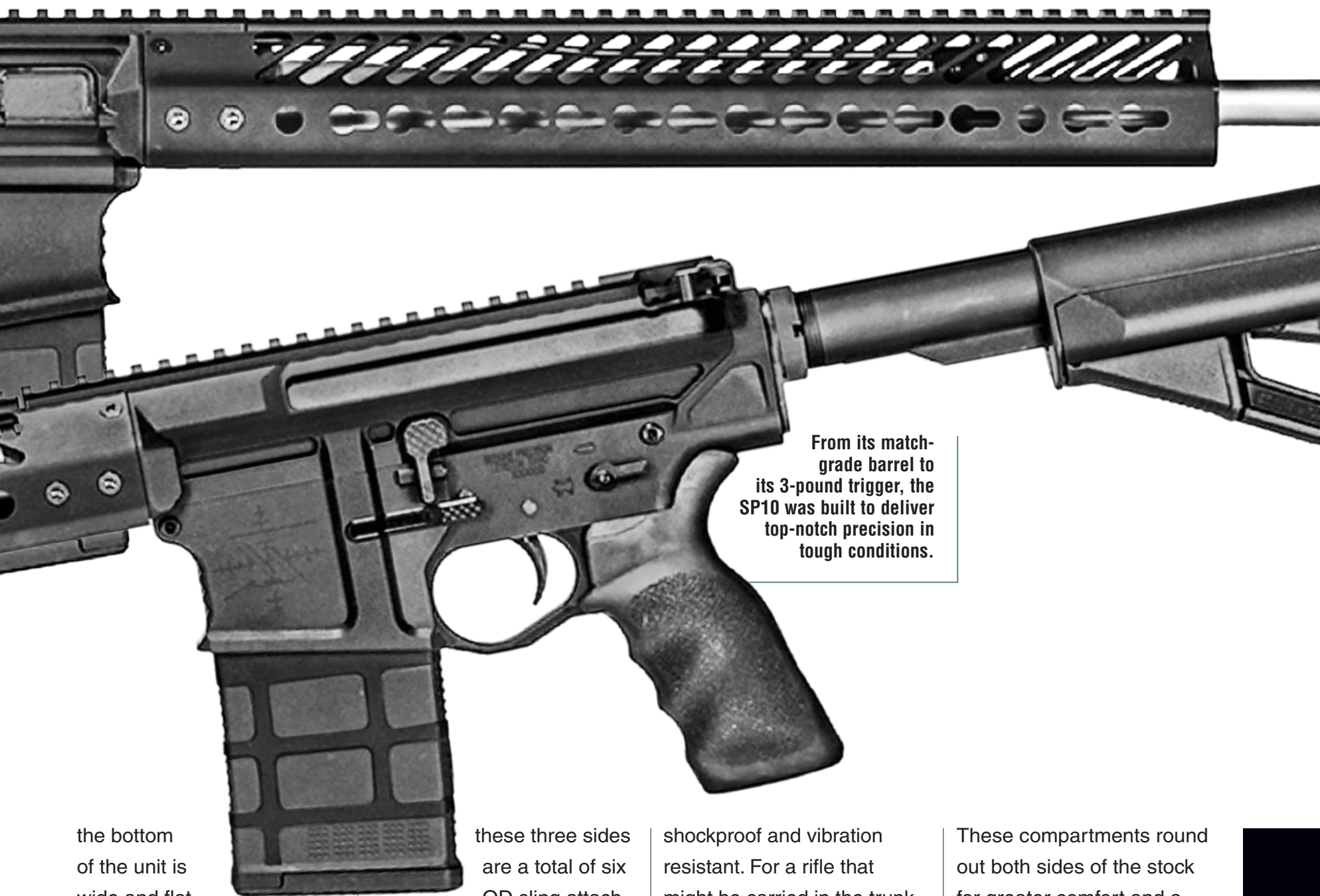
SERIOUS FIGHTING TOOL

Seekins Precision builds the SP10 to be a fighting tool. The company uses an 18-inch, match-grade

barrel made of stainless steel. Capping the barrel is Seekins' ATC muzzle brake, which reduces both recoil and muzzle rise. Both the barrel and brake have a flawless, bead-blasted stainless steel finish.

One of the more distinctive visual characteristics of the SP10 is the 15-inch SP3R handguard. The handguard is essentially a five-sided, machined aluminum unit that integrates a number of useful features. The handguard is designed so that

SHOOT



From its match-grade barrel to its 3-pound trigger, the SP10 was built to deliver top-notch precision in tough conditions.

the bottom of the unit is wide and flat.

Compared to many round handguards, this gives the SP10 a wider, more stable base when shooting off of an improvised rest.

Along the bottom, right and left sides of the handguard are KeyMod slots for adding accessories. By using KeyMod slots instead of Picatinny rails on these three surfaces, Seekins shaves ounces from the overall weight of the gun. Also on

these three sides are a total of six QD sling attachment points. The top of the

handguard has a full-length Picatinny rail for mounting sights and optics.

For this review, I mounted a Burris XTR II 4-20x50mm riflescope on the SP10 using a one-piece Burris mount. This scope uses a first-focus-plane reticle and multi-coated lenses. Burris hand-fits the internal assemblies in this scope and uses triple spring tensioning to make the scope

shockproof and vibration resistant. For a rifle that might be carried in the trunk of a patrol car and banged around more than a typical hunting gun, shock resistance in the optics is mandatory. I've used this scope on several 7.62mm rifles, and it has always performed well.

A Magpul STR stock is used on the SP10. This adjustable stock has a number of desirable features, including a pair of water-resistant compartments for storing CR123 batteries.

These compartments round out both sides of the stock for greater comfort and a stronger cheekweld.

Additionally, the stock incorporates a secondary friction lock. This lock helps eliminate any wiggle in the stock and reduces the likelihood of accidentally activating the length adjustment lever. Magpul also built in a pair of QD sling attachment points: one on each side of the rifle. These work well with the integral QD sling mounts in the handguard.

The SP10 uses a BCM Gunfighter charging handle, which I consider one of the best on the market. After I experienced a roll-pin failure in the charging handle of one of my personally owned AR rifles, I took a hard look at the after-market options that were available. The BCM Gunfighter charging handle takes a lot of the pressure off of the roll pin, making it far less likely to fail. Additionally, it gives the shooter a larger gripping surface that can be very helpful when clearing malfunctions or when wearing gloves. For a gun that can be used in high-risk tactical scenarios, this small upgrade can make a big difference.

For a pistol grip, Seekins equipped the SP10 with a deluxe Ergo model. This grip is made of a soft, rubber-like material that helps provide excellent control of the gun. The grip is larger than other pistol grips, so those with larger hands are more likely to appreciate the grip than folks with smaller hands like myself. Even though the grip felt a little large in my hand, it did not impair my trigger reach at all.

A single-stage, curved CMC trigger is standard on this rifle. It is very light

SEEKINS PRECISION SP10

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 7.62mm NATO • **Barrel:** 18 inches
OA Length: 36.75-40 inches
Weight: 8.9 pounds (empty) • **Sights:** None
Action: Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish: Matte black • **Stock:** Magpul STR
Capacity: 20+1 • **MSRP:** \$2,489

PERFORMANCE

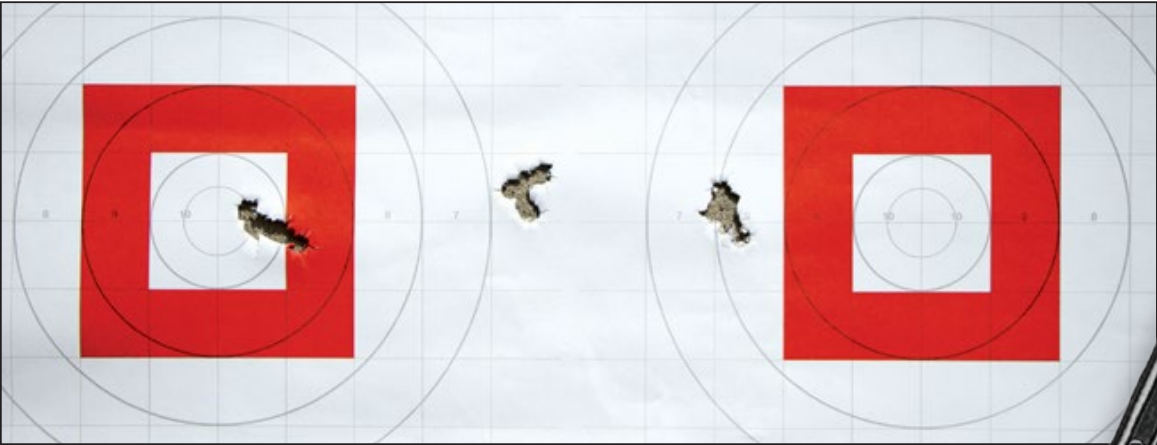
Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal Fusion MSR 150 JSP	2,791	0.75
Gorilla 175 SMK	2,427	0.63
Remington 168 Match BTHP	2,511	0.75

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.

and crisp. There is no sign of grittiness nor any perceptible take-up or overtravel. It is one of the cleanest triggers I have felt on a factory gun in a long



The BCM Gunfighter charging handle ensures that users wearing gloves can easily manipulate the bolt under stress.



At the range, the SP10 created tight, one-hole groups with all of the test ammunition from Federal Premium, Gorilla Ammunition and Remington.

time. With a Lyman digital trigger pull gauge, I measured the weight at 3.06 pounds on average for 10 pulls.

If you are not familiar with the company's products, CMC Triggers is a Texas manufacturer that builds drop-in trigger assemblies for AR-type rifles. Frankly, the triggers feel exceptional and are aggressively priced. I really like the company's products, and the unit installed on the SP10 is typical of the company's quality.

Ambidextrous controls are standard on this rifle. The bolt release, magazine release and safety selector are accessible from both sides of the gun. A 60-degree short-throw lever is used for the safety selector. It is textured and easy to manipulate. Finally, my test SP10 came in soft-sided carry case with a 20-round Magpul PMAG.

ON TARGET

When I first received the gun for testing, I immediately liked it. But, I truly fell in love with the SP10 at the range. The gun was deadly accurate and absolutely reliable. The recoil was modest, and the trigger pull was sweet.

I found the SP10 to be supremely accurate with every ammunition load I tried in it. The 175-grain Sierra MatchKing load from Gorilla Ammunition was the most accurate, making a best five-shot group a little larger than 0.6 inches. Other loads from Federal and Remington were good for five-shot groups of 0.75 inches. The worst performer on the range was some old military surplus ammo that still managed groups of about 1.25 inches.

When testing the different loads in the rifle, I



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SEEKINS SP10



The 18-inch, match-grade, stainless steel barrel comes with a flawless bead-blasted finish and a recoil-reducing ATC muzzle brake.

weights ranging from 150 grains to 175 grains, the gun cycled perfectly. Running the rifle from both shoulders, the ambidextrous controls worked as expected. The short-throw safety selector was clearly superior to the

standard lever, as I could quickly operate it without altering my grip on the gun.

TRUE MARKSMAN

The Seekins Precision SP10 rifle performed admirably for me. I could find no flaws in either its form or function. Rounds were delivered on target with

used a front sandbag rest and shot from a bench. I did not use a rear bag or a rigid rifle rest. So, the potential accuracy of the SP10 is greater than the accuracy I achieved. Frankly, the shooter is the weak link in this evaluation.

Equally important to accuracy is reliability. The SP10 was perfect in this respect as well. Running loads from several different manufacturers, with bullet



The SP3R handguard has a flat base, providing a stable support for off-hand shooting.



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SEEKINS SP10



The billet-crafted lower receiver features an enlarged triggerguard, an Ergo pistol grip and ambidextrous controls.

relative ease. As an accuracy-focused semi-automatic rifle, the SP10 is an unqualified winner.

I believe that every department should give its sniper teams a wide degree of discretion when selecting a precision rifle. Deciding which rifles to deploy

“...I truly fell in love with the SP10 at the range. The gun was **deadly accurate and absolutely reliable**. The recoil was modest, and the trigger pull was **SWEET**.”

should never come down to price alone, but should instead include considerations of accuracy, reliability and suitability to the probable scenarios in which they might be used.

Seekins Precision built this rifle to be accurate and reliable. With the abundance of AR-type accessories on the market, the gun can be further customized with relative ease to a department's anticipated needs. While I would never presume to tell a department what to buy, I would strongly suggest that teams consider the SP10 if it appears to match their requirements. For more information, visit seekinsprecision.com or call 208-743-3400.

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LASER-PRINTED SUPPRESSORS

Delta P Design's new Brevis II line cuts size and weight for superior CQB handling. **BY DAVID KENIK**

Sound suppressors work by allowing the rapidly expanding gases from a fired cartridge to be decelerated and cooled.

The more gas that is diverted and the slower it moves, the less noise is produced. Most suppressors are thin and rather lengthy, elongated tubes. While I am far from a noise-reduction engineer, I have always wondered why suppressors are so long and postulated that a short and wide suppressor could decelerate as much gas as a thin, long one. A shorter stature would

certainly be beneficial on short-barreled rifles and entry weapons. There's not a lot of sense to adding a long suppressor to a short barrel if there's a better option.

Apparently, the folks at Delta P Design held similar notions and created just that with the introduction of their Brevis II suppressor line. Delta P Design is based in Springfield, Oregon. The company formed in 2006 as a small arms design and engineering firm. Its first suppressor, the Brevis I, was a traditional design. That all changed in 2013 with the start of the concept for the Brevis II, a radical redesign that

is not just different than its predecessor—it is fundamentally different than all other suppressors on the market.

UNIQUE DESIGN

Rather than design a suppressor and then test it to determine its attributes, Delta P Design created a specification list of size, weight, sound suppression level, flash suppression, etc., then crafted a design to meet those requirements. After nearly two years of design and testing, the Brevis II was introduced near the end of 2014.

It's easy to see that the size and shape of the Brevis II line are different, but what is also unique is what's on the inside, as well as the type of manufacturing process used. The concept of Delta P Design suppressors is to pair a short overall length with durability, lighter weight and signature-reduction performance. Unlike other manufacturers that offer compact suppressors, the Brevis II offers full sound reduction. And, while it certainly can be installed and removed as often as the shooter needs, the Brevis II was designed to be a permanent barrel attachment, to be left on for the full service life of the weapon, much like a flash suppressor.

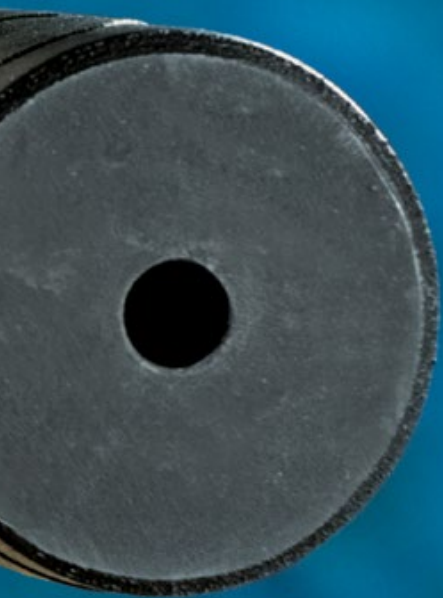
DELTA P DESIGN BREVIS II SUPPRESSORS

Model	Caliber	Weight	Length	Diameter	Material
Brevis II 5.56	5.56mm	11.5	3.7	2.0	Inconel
Brevis II Ultra 5.56	5.56mm	7.5	3.7	2.0	Titanium
Brevis II Ultra 6.5	6.5mm	7.3	5.5	1.4	Titanium
Brevis II 7.62	7.62mm	16.0	5.5	2.0	Inconel
Brevis II Ultra 7.62	7.62mm	10.0	5.5	2.0	Titanium
Brevis II Ultra 8.6	8.6mm	10.0	5.5	2.0	Titanium

Weight in ounces. Length and diameter in inches.



The Brevis II suppressor from Delta P Design is a radical departure from typical designs.



Brevis II suppressors are just a single piece. There is only one part, the suppressor. This can only be accomplished by one type of manufacturing process, additive laser sintering—also known as 3D printing.

Shown next to a typical design, the Brevis II is much shorter and wider than competing suppressors.



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DELTA P BREVIS II

Rather than traditional machining processes that remove metal, such as mills and lathes, laser sintering is comprised of thousands of ultra-thin layers of powdered metal that are heated with a laser to solidify them. The process of adding powder layers and lasering continues until the part is complete. The major advantage of this 3D printing process is that products can be built with shapes and forms not capable of being produced with traditional processes. It is physically impossible to manufacture a one-piece suppressor with traditional subtractive machining.

The 3D printing process also enabled Delta P Design to create a unique baffle shape within the suppressor. This custom, proprietary baffle design allowed them to meet their suppression goals while maintaining the short profile of its ultra-compact suppressor.

A major advantage of the one-piece concept is strength. The fact that there are no threads or welds to break greatly enhances the Brevis II's durability. Another advantage of the one-piece design is that there is no toler-

**"...the Brevis II...
is fundamentally
different than all
other suppressors
on the market."**

ance stacking between multiple parts. Brevis II suppressors have been full-auto tested over 20,000 to 30,000 rounds without a sign of erosion! The Brevis II will outlast barrels and many firearms themselves.

Along the same vein, the Brevis II suppressors use a thread-mount design to eliminate tolerance stacking and mounting problems associated with quick-detach (QD) systems. Personally, I prefer thread mounts as I have on more than one occasion struggled to install or remove so-called QD suppressors.

Manufactured from hardened Inconel, the Brevis II suppressors are available in 5.56mm NATO and 7.62mm NATO. Delta P Design's Brevis II Ultra suppressors—made from titanium and a high nickel super-alloy for decreased weight—are also available in 5.56mm, 6.5mm, 7.62mm and 8.6mm.

You might think that a one-piece design would make cleaning difficult. Not so. Delta P Design states that no special cleaning is necessary. Just leave the suppressor on the barrel and clean it as normal, just as you would with a flash suppressor.

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To eliminate tolerance stacking and ensure alignment, the Brevis II is thread mounted.

I tested a 7.62mm Brevis II on a 6.5 Creedmoor bolt gun, the only .30-caliber rifle that I have with a threaded barrel. I chose the 7.62mm rather than a 6.5mm because I have another 7.62mm suppressor, so I could make some direct comparisons. The purpose of my evaluation was to look for three things: accuracy changes, point-of-aim shifts and subjective noise.

I shot about 10 rounds to get the barrel heated up. I then shot some groups without the suppressor from 100 yards as a control for comparison. The groups measured between 0.38 and 0.5 inches. I attached the

suppressor and shot groups that were right in the same ballpark. The accuracy remained consistent—excellent!

Compared to groups shot without a suppressor, the groups shot with the Brevis II were lowered by about 1 inch. It is a little more than I anticipated, but a lower point of impact is normal when a suppressor is mounted. Any time additional weight is added to the end of a barrel, it will droop slightly, thus lowering the point of impact. A lot of factors determine the amount of drop, including the weight of the suppressor, barrel length, barrel profile, etc. The point of impact did not change horizontally, however, which is exactly what should happen. Any lateral impact shift would mean that the gas movement within the suppressor is uneven.

I also subjectively compared the noise to other suppressors that I have used on that rifle and found the sound to be the same or quieter. I say “subjectively,” because actual scientific testing is far beyond the capability of most shooters and certainly beyond my own. The equipment needed to accurately measure the very quick duration of gunfire is

exceedingly expensive, not to mention that a precise, controlled environment is required.

For these reasons, a true noise-reduction comparison of different manufacturers’ suppressors is impossible. Each manufacturer tests their products in their own manner, at their own location and with different equipment. While the specification sheets may look impressive, they are frustratingly meaningless. The only real method to compare the noise output of different suppressors is to listen to them from behind the rifle and make a subjective determination.

I have shot several suppressors that claim to be “ear safe”—safe to shoot without hearing protection—that left me slightly uncomfortable afterwards. No pain or ringing, but my ears were uncomfortable. I did not have such problems with the Brevis II.

Delta P Design’s Brevis II represents the frontier of suppressor design. Whether your use is for patrol or with an entry team, the Brevis II’s compact size and one-piece design make it a great choice when small size matters. For more information, visit deltapdesign.com or call 503-487-0007.

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Sturm, Ruger & Company is a well-known manufacturer in the U.S., making some of the best rifles and handguns for tactical missions, personal defense and competition.

Now the company has gone a new direction by introducing the Ruger Precision Rifle, an affordable yet highly accurate bolt-action rifle designed for long-range engagements and utilizing a detachable magazine.

Any police department or law enforcement agency considering a precision rifle should consider the Ruger Precision Rifle. It is available from the factory in 7.62mm NATO, 6.5 Creedmoor and .243

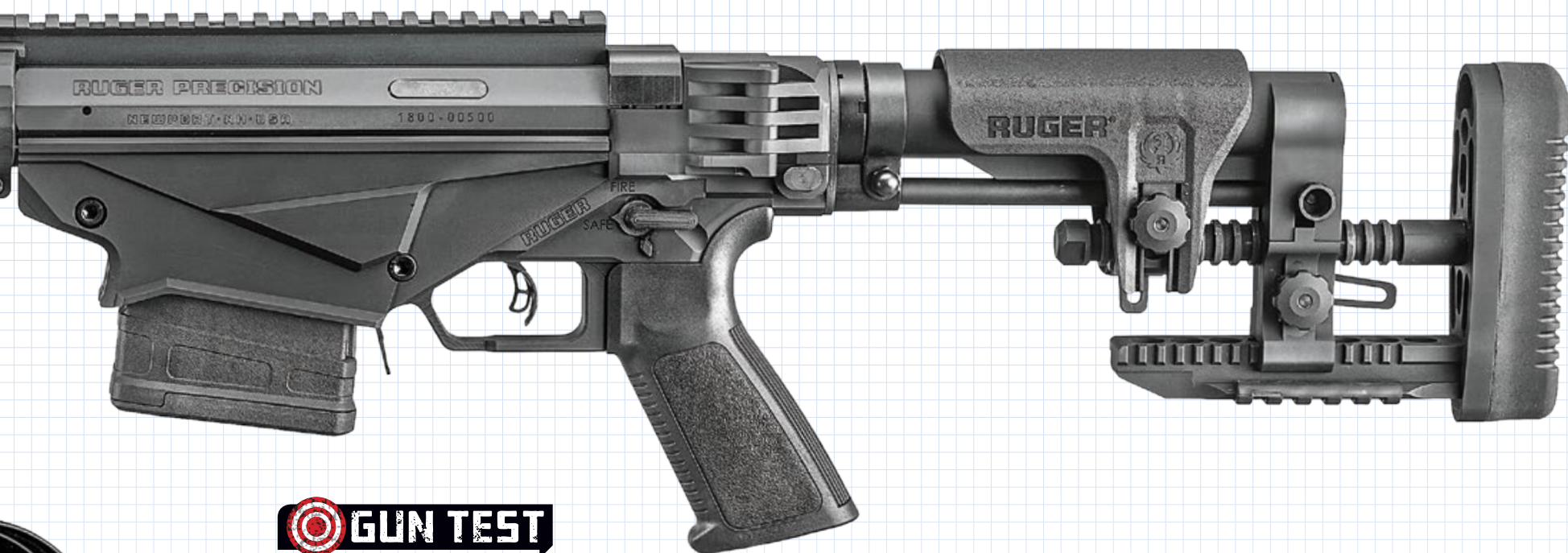
Winchester. It comes with many notable features, including a fully adjustable, folding stock, a threaded muzzle, a full-length Picatinny top rail and Ruger's Marksman Adjustable trigger, with a pull weight that can be adjusted between 2.25 and 5 pounds. One thing that distinguishes the Precision Rifle is its ability to accept multiple types of detachable magazines, including those from DPMS, Knight's Armament, Magpul and Accuracy International. Two 10-round Magpul PMAGs come with each Ruger Precision Rifle.

And you'll immediately notice its price. Its MSRP is \$1,399. Of course, the Ruger Precision Rifle's affordability may create some prejudices in shooters who

judge a weapon's value by its price. Many individuals, not to mention industry competitors, will want you to believe that the moderately priced Precision Rifle must somehow be deficient when compared to rifles costing two to three times more. All I can urge is for every individual or department to evaluate this weapon. The Ruger Precision Rifle takes a backseat to no other rifle in its class in terms of precision, repeatable accuracy, ergonomics, reliability, firepower and safety.

AMERICAN-MADE

I was lucky enough to get my hands on a Ruger Precision Rifle chambered in 7.62mm NATO. Aside from the 6.5



RUGER'S TOP SHOT

The new, AR-like Precision Rifle offers
7.62mm power, versatility and
sub-MOA accuracy.



By Todd Burgreen

Creedmoor and .243 Winchester variants, many are already salivating at the thought of a .300 Win Mag or even a .338 Lapua Mag version appearing down the road.

The Precision Rifle is built around a modified Ruger American bolt action. The 7.62mm version, with its 20-inch barrel, has an overall length of 30.6 inches with the stock folded and 41.75 inches with the stock fully extended. The medium-profile barrel is cold-hammer forged from 4140 chrome-moly steel with 5R rifling in a 1-in-10-inch twist rate. This twist rate is great for a wide range of 7.62mm loads, from 147 to 175 grains. The muzzle has 5/8x24 threading for suppressor use, and

Ruger ships the rifle with a thread protector.

The AR influence is hard to escape for any rifle nowadays—even bolt actions—and the rifle features upper and lower receivers. The upper receiver and bolt are CNC-machined from pre-hardened 4140 chrome-moly steel. The upper has an integral 20-MOA Picatinny rail secured with four #8-40 screws for increased long-range capabilities. The three-lug, full-diameter bolt has a 70-degree throw along with dual cocking cams. The bottom bolt lug is ideal for

Ruger's new Precision Rifle comes with several accuracy-enhancing upgrades, including a cold-hammer-forged bull barrel. Shown with a Nightforce scope.

strip-ping rounds from the detachable magazines. Ruger also decided to go with an enlarged bolt handle for positive bolt manipulations. If a user so chooses, a different bolt handle can be installed. A bolt disassembly tool is stored in the bolt shroud for easy striker channel cleaning.

RUGER PRECISION



RUGER PRECISION RIFLE

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 7.62mm NATO
Barrel: 20 inches
OA Length: 30.6-41.75 inches
Weight: 9.5 pounds (empty)
Stock: Folding, adjustable
Sights: None • **Action:** Bolt
Finish: Matte black
Capacity: 10+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,399

PERFORMANCE

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Black Hills 175 Match	2,550	0.75
Federal 168 Gold Medal Match	2,570	1.00
Hornady 168 TAP	2,625	0.75
Winchester 168 Match	2,632	0.50

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.

The barrel can be changed out using techniques and tools common with AR-15 rifles. Surrounding the barrel is a free-floating Samson Evolution KeyMod AR handguard. As with the buttstock, most AR-style forends can be installed if a user is so inclined. The same can be said of the AR-style pistol grip and fire selector switch. The Precision Rifle's magazine

well, which allows it to feed and run reliably with several magazine types, is machined from aerospace-grade 7075-T6 aluminum that has been Type III hard-coat anodized for maximum durability.

Ruger has chosen a different path from typical bedded stocks or even the chassis systems that seem to be gaining in popularity. The Precision Rifle utilizes a linear in-line recoil path to maximize its accuracy potential by directing unwanted movement and vibration straight back into the buttstock. This minimizes the impact on barrel harmonics when the rifle is fired; the key here is consistency during the firing impulse. The stock is threaded into the rear of the receiver, in effect becoming a part of it. Any AR-style stock can be used over the buffer-tube-like projection if a user feels the MSR stock is not to their liking for some reason.

Unloaded, the rifle weighs in at 9.7 pounds. The rifle's relatively light weight, compared to other precision rifles on the

market, makes it easy to carry and gives it above average handling characteristics for a tactical bolt-action rifle. Many tactical rifles, while accurate, resemble boat anchors when it comes to handling due to their weight and stock configuration—but not the Ruger Precision Rifle.

Some may wonder what the purpose or niche is for the Ruger Precision Rifle.

Why not just use a tuned semi-automatic AR in lieu of this bolt-action rifle? The answer lies with an individual or department's preferences for a bolt action. This could be based on cost, public perceptions or a myriad of other reasons. Ruger has designed a rifle that is rock solid with characteristics making it conducive to accurate shooting from a variety of positions.

The rifle is not exclusively designed for shooting from prone or benchrest positions. The forend handles bipods or

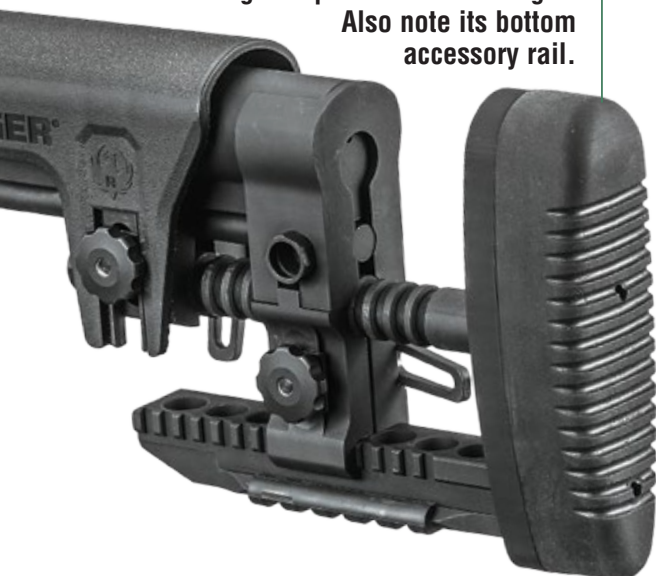
The long top rail and Samson forend make it easy to add optics and accessories like this Leupold Mark 4 and Harris bipod.



The rifle was sub-MOA accurate with several test loads. Winchester's 168-grain Match ammo created a 0.5-inch group.

sandbags with aplomb. The stock allows for off-hand and other types of supported fire if needed. Think field-expedient positions like shooting from the trunk or hood of a squad car. The adjustable Ruger MSR buttstock offers a comfortable, repeatable cheekweld. This combines with an AR-style pistol grip that makes it much easier to pull the Ruger Marksman trigger smoothly to the rear every time.

Ruger's MSR stock is adjustable for length of pull and cheek height. Also note its bottom accessory rail.



Of course, tactical rifles must be accurate. To that end, I mounted a Leupold 3.5-10x50mm Mark 4 scope with a mil-dot reticle onto the Precision Rifle via Leupold rings. This scope offers Leupold's typical reliability, clarity and image quality with a magnification range perfect for a 7.62mm precision rifle. Aside from this scope, I also used a Champion tripod front rest and sandbags to wring out the rifle's accuracy at the range.

To test the rifle, I used various loads from Black Hills, Federal, Winchester and Hornady. The Precision Rifle's 20-inch barrel produced velocity readings in the low 2,600-fps range with the 168-grain loads. In essence, the 20-inch barrel maximizes portability and handling while maintaining 7.62mm ballistics and terminal performance. As can be expected with quality ammunition, velocity figures measured by an RCBS chronograph deviated very little from round to round. The Precision Rifle produced 1-MOA or

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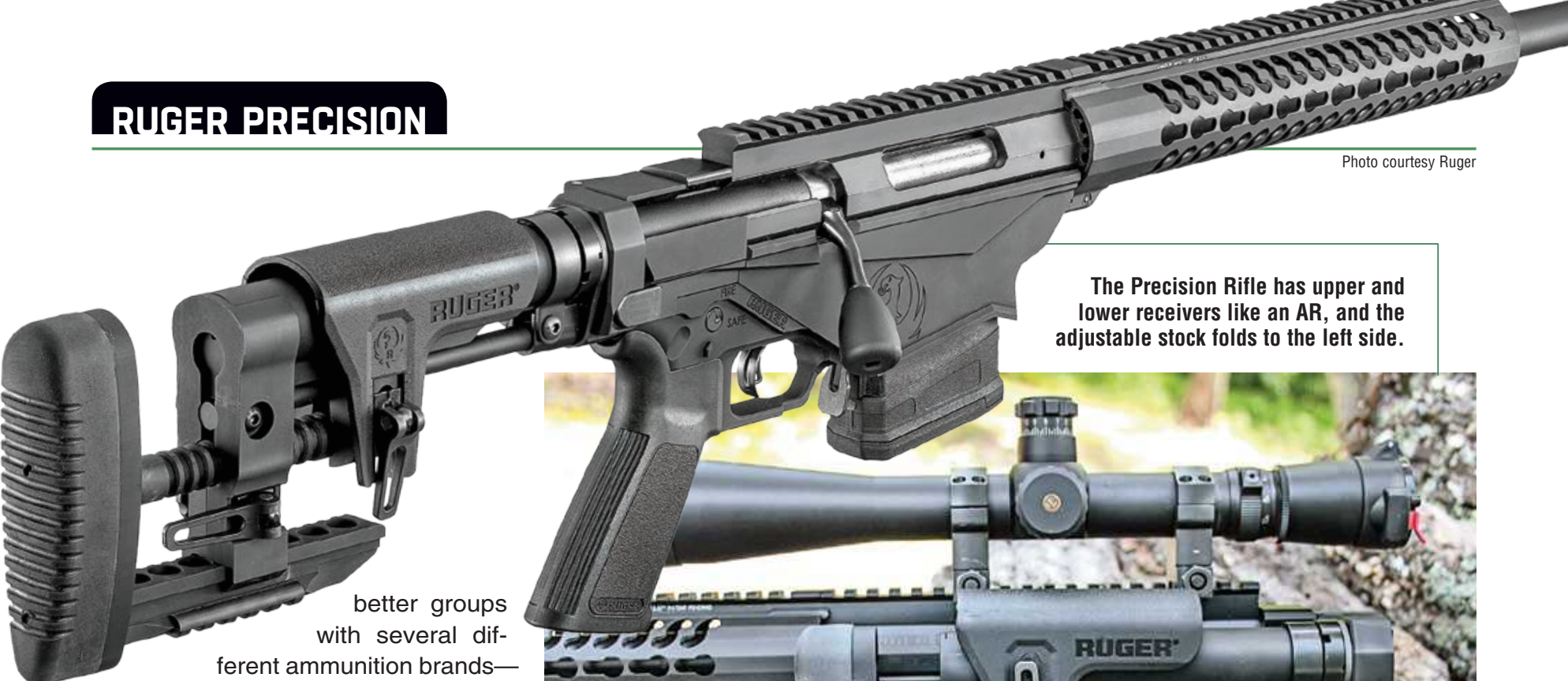
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The Precision Rifle has upper and lower receivers like an AR, and the adjustable stock folds to the left side.

better groups with several different ammunition brands—an important logistic consideration.

After the 100-yard evaluation, I easily smacked steel targets out to 310 yards using field-expedient rests at the Echo Valley Training Center. While by no means rivaling a semi-automatic for pure firepower, the detachable magazines were handy for reloading the Precision Rifle. The action was slick and smooth straight from the box.



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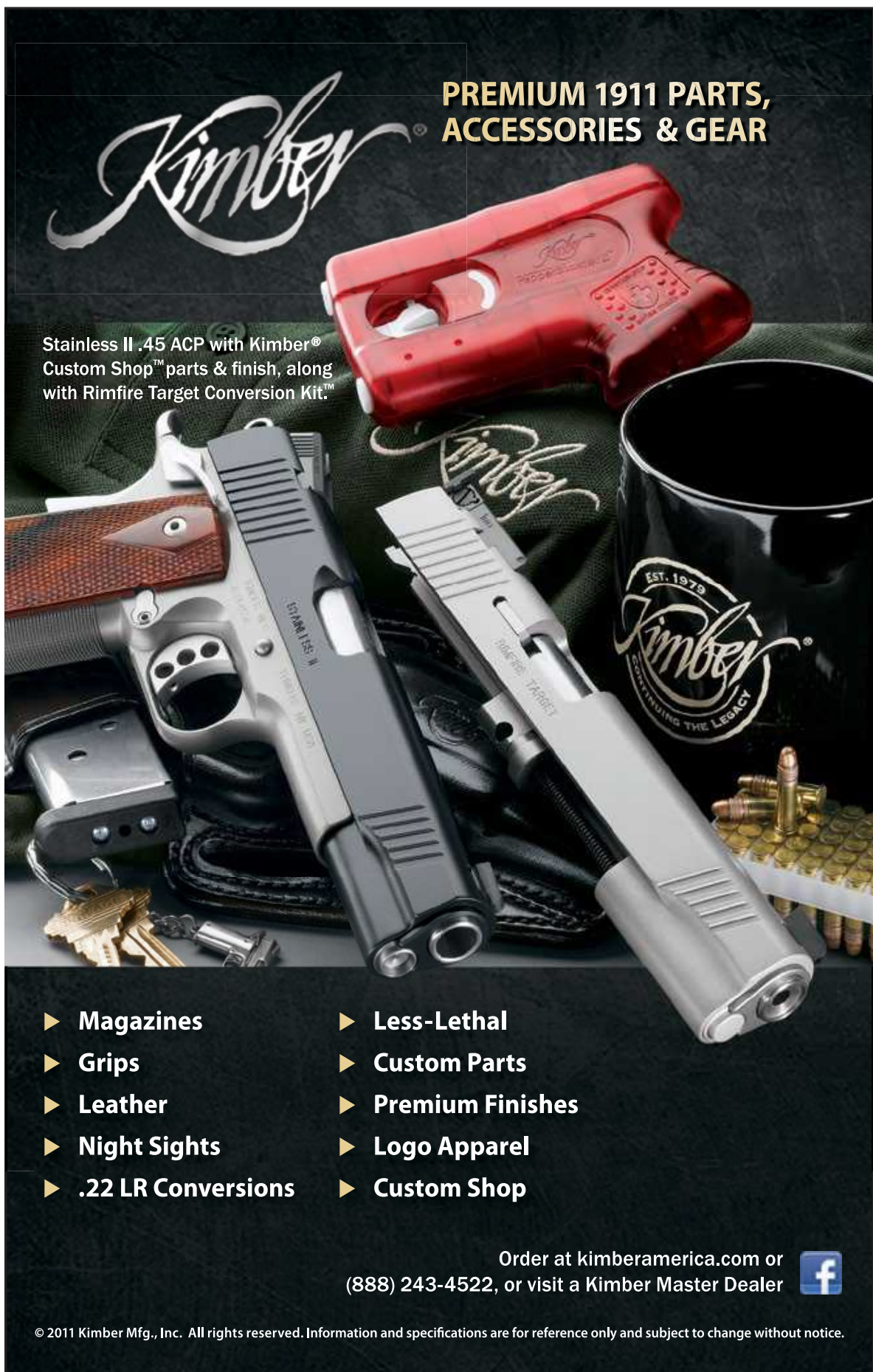
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RUGER PRECISION



Ruger's Marksman trigger features a safety toggle and is fully adjustable between 2.25 and 5 pounds.

MAKING ITS MARK

Even though it's a bolt action imminently qualified to serve a precise tactical weapon, the Ruger Precision Rifle should not be pigeonholed into solely a sniper rifle role. There many jurisdictions that will appreciate its non-assault rifle persona while maintaining its high capacity. Think of it as a lightweight patrol rifle with 10+1 rounds on tap.

The Ruger Precision Rifle performed better than some rifles I've tested in this

**“The Ruger...
takes a backseat to no
other rifle in its class
in terms of precision,
repeatable accuracy,
ergonomics, reliability, fire-
power and safety.”**

format that cost significantly more. And once again I urge you, whether civilian or LEO, not to fall into the trap of thinking that dollars equate into proficiency. Yes, equipment is a huge part of the skills equation when it comes to marksmanship, but that doesn't make up for training and practice. The Ruger Precision Rifle is not at all a compromise in terms of performance, though a user will benefit from selecting it by having funds left in the budget for optics, ammunition and training. For more information, visit ruger.com.



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Carry options to keep your backup gun hidden but ready for action!

BY DENNIS ADLER

Concealed carry is relevant to law enforcement, whether you're in uniform or plainclothes.

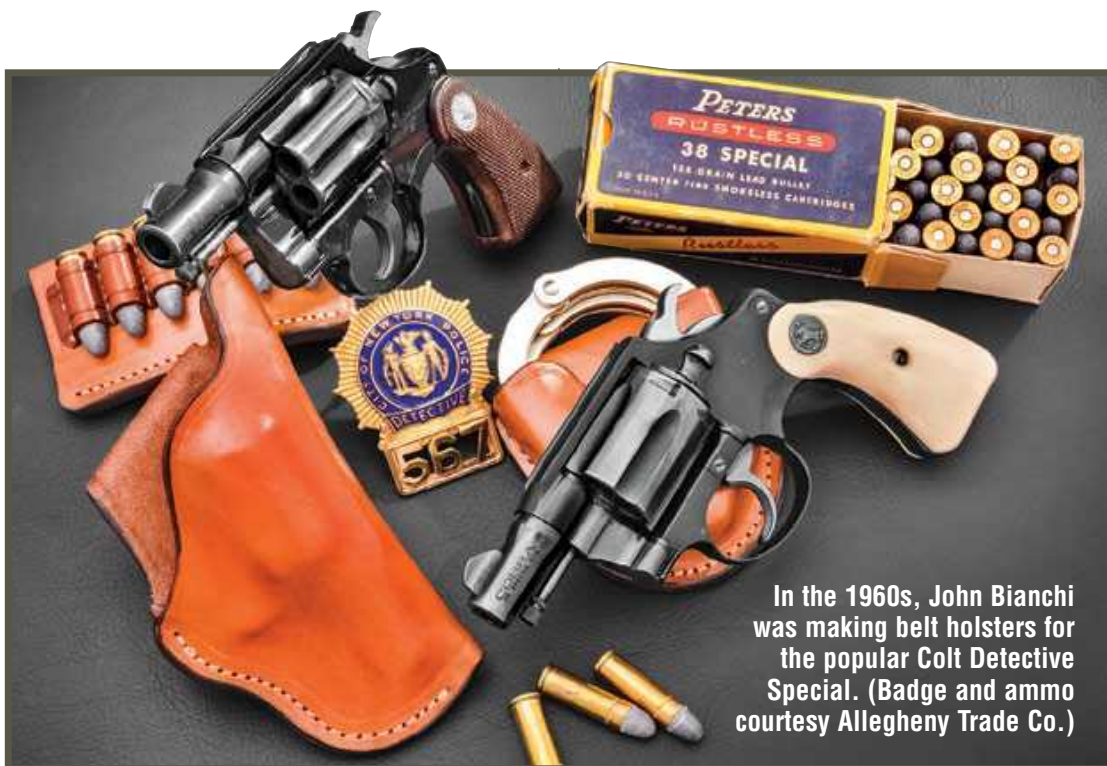
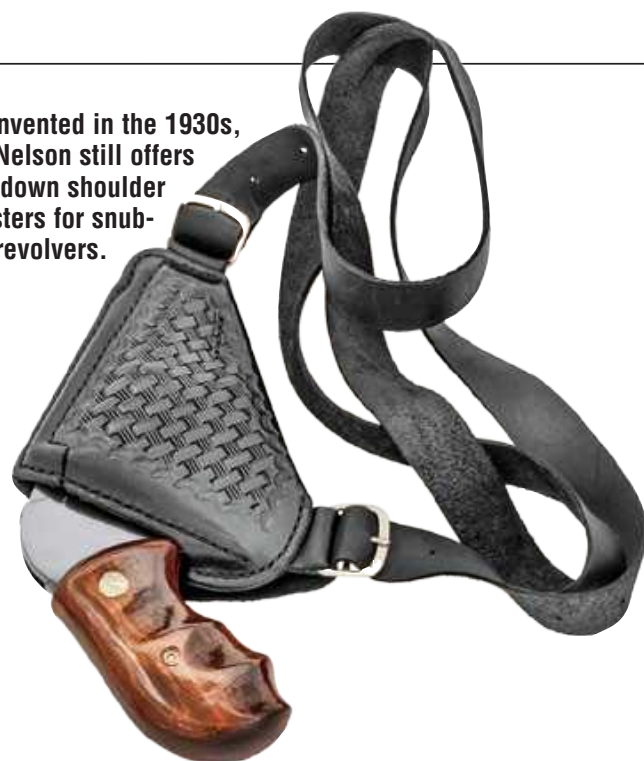
What might be a backup gun for uniformed officers might be a primary weapon for detectives or those working undercover. In the 1930s and well into the late 20th century, detectives and federal agents wore holsters under their suit jackets, generally belt rigs or shoulder holsters. Undercover operatives faced a greater problem of concealment altogether, and hiding a handgun was essential. Over time, various concealed-carry



5.11 Tactical's Torrent jacket offers several pockets for covertly carrying small handguns.



Invented in the 1930s, A.E. Nelson still offers upside-down shoulder holsters for snub-nose revolvers.



In the 1960s, John Bianchi was making belt holsters for the popular Colt Detective Special. (Badge and ammo courtesy Allegheny Trade Co.)

clothing evolved, first for law enforcement and later for the civilian market. Today, it is possible to carry concealed without a trace and without using a conventional holster. The choices depend upon the assignment and, of course, the gun itself and one's necessary level of concealment.

Back in the day, a detective or undercover agent had a finite number of carry gun options, nearly all of which were .38 Special snub-nose revolvers like the famous Colt Detective Special, which provided officers with six shots versus the comparable S&W Chief's Special and similar Smith & Wesson models with five-round cylinders. Holsters were also relatively straightforward—a belt or shoulder holster for day-to-day carry. There was, of course, one other popular option supported by legendary shooter and Colt representative J. Henry FitzGerald, who

put forward the idea in 1930 that "The front pocket is a good place to carry a revolver."

POCKET CARRY

Today's pocket holsters are made for small-framed semi-autos and revolvers and designed for easy carry in a front trouser pocket. With modern metallurgy and polymer frames, caliber is no longer a constant, so a small pistol can be anything from .380 ACP to .45 ACP. Pocket holster materials range from leather, usually rough-out suede to keep the holster secure in the pocket on the draw, to combinations of nylon for the inside and synthetic exteriors with rubberized textures to keep the holster upright and secure in the pocket. Most designs totally eclipse the profile of the gun and give the impression of a wallet being carried in the pocket. Revolvers are slightly wider due to their



cylinders, versus the narrow slides and frames for semi-autos, but all will work well in a pocket holster. A few do require a shirttail or jacket to cover the pocket until needed. This is the most comfortable means of discreet carry but is slower on the draw than a belt holster, inside-the-waistband (IWB) or shoulder holster.

SHOULDER RIGS

Sometimes the old ways are the best, and as far back as the late 19th century lawmen were carrying revolvers in shoulder holsters. The basic design from the last days of the "Old West" has not changed as much as the guns that occupy them today. The fundamentals of shoulder holster design have never really changed. Improvements have been in harness designs, offside cartridge or magazine pouches, and changes in pouch angle from the original vertical holster pouch to faster-drawing horizontal pouches with thumb-break safety straps, and downward-angled pouches like the famous DeSantis New York Undercover shoulder holster.

Spring-clip designs originated in the late 1890s and were first improved upon in the 1930s by John Berns of Berns-Martin, which offered detectives a new and better way to carry a .38-caliber Colt or

“Today, it is possible to carry concealed without a trace and without using a conventional holster.”

S&W revolver. The upside-down Berns-Martin triple draw was not only popular but was copied by A.E. Nelson in the early 1950s and sold as the Handi-Holster. Both were ingenious in their use of a clamshell (split front) pouch held together by a spring-steel clip that went over the cylinder. The holster pouch entirely enclosed the revolver except for the

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Several companies, including 5.11 Tactical, offer T-shirts with built-in shoulder holsters.

hammer and grip frame, making it extremely secure. The legendary Colonel Jeff Cooper once noted that the Berns-Martin holster “keeps the pistol secure enough for anything up to parachute jumping, and yet permits drawing without releasing any latch or strap beforehand.” When Bianchi International purchased Berns-Martin in 1975, the company adopted the design and began producing a variety of holsters for concealed carry and law enforcement use, including the 9R, which closely resembled the Berns-Martin. This shoulder holster design is best remembered from its use by Steve McQueen in *Bullitt*. Bianchi’s development of break-front holsters eventually became a staple for law enforcement use, where gun retention had become a major concern. Today there are shoulder holsters designs for virtually every caliber semi-auto and revolver, making this original idea timeless.

INSIDE THE WAISTBAND

While hardly a secure way to carry a handgun, a pistol stuffed inside one’s waistband has been a practice for more than 150 years. The one improvement on that idea is the IWB holster, which today encompasses one of the most prolific of designs and variations from every major holster manufacturer. For this particular means of packing a compact or subcompact semi-auto or snub-nose revolver, the bulk of the gun and the IWB rig will be against your body and hidden from view with the exception of the gun’s grips. This is

a very effective carry method, and pistols can be worn in multiple positions; the 4 o’clock placement behind the hip is often most comfortable, and for smaller guns specialized 2 o’clock or “appendix carry” IWB holsters place the handgun in an easily retrieved position forward of the hip. This carry style works for casual attire and for year-round carry where any type of outer clothing, even a T-shirt or sweater, can cover the gun’s exposed grips.

CLOTHING OPTIONS

There are times when a holster, no matter how well made, no matter how comfortable, no matter how small, will not work. This is where clothes specifically styled for carrying concealed not only make the man but arm him (or her) as well.

“Deep cover” has many interpretations, from covert to just plain hiding a backup gun where no one is apt to see or expect it. The first option in concealment clothing is one of the various dedicated holster T-shirts on the market. These designs vary from lightweight designs made from regular T-shirt material with sewn-in panels to support various-sized handguns, to compression T-shirts with shoulder holster yokes built in for supporting a variety of handguns and fitted with deep pouches that are sealed off with hook-and-loop closures. Nearly all of these designs are ambidextrous, with the off side used for either a second handgun or, if specifically

ordered, spare magazines. Compression T-shirts with pouches already make this possible. Worn under an unbuttoned lightweight shirt, holster T-shirts keep the gun totally hidden and within easy access. When worn under a buttoned shirt and jacket, these designs become some of the most covert carry options available.

Weather is one of the prevailing factors in determining how a gun can be carried concealed, and while holster Ts make summer wear easier, colder temperatures change the demands, making the holster T-shirt a purely deep-cover option. For



Small-of-the-back rigs like this Galco SOB make it easy to carry a gun discreetly with a jacket.

weather that requires either a vest or jacket, concealment clothing again offers some very good carry options. Popular jacket and vest styles are available from 5.11

Tactical, Blue Stone Safety Products, UnderTech and Carhartt. Vests and jackets generally have secure inside pistol pockets or are set up to carry a hook-and-loop-attached holster on an inside pocket. Most are ambidextrous, so guns can be carried on either side. Options include hook-and-loop closures to seal off the internal pocket from detection, while others use snap closures. All of them, by virtue of using heavier fabric, make carry totally unobtrusive, even with larger handguns.

With all of these options, it is easy to dress around your concealed-carry sidearm, and while you might not be able to control the weather, with one of these options you will be able to carry your sidearm by the best means possible for any given temperature or situation, rain or shine.



The DeSantis Nemesis pocket holster helps hide your gun’s outline.

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ROCKING

Rock River Arms' newest LAR-40 carbine pushes the .40 S&W



The author used a MEPRO 21 sight to test the LAR-40's accuracy at 50 yards.

By William Bell

The .40 S&W cartridge has been around for over 25 years. It was intended from the start to be an effective autoloading pistol round for law enforcement. Spawned by the FBI after the failure of lightweight 115-grain 9mm JHP bullets, the agency first went to 147-grain JHP loads, then to a lightly loaded 10mm cartridge with a 180-grain JHP bullet.

But the 10mm's 0.992-inch case length required a large-frame handgun. Smith & Wesson and Winchester realized that the same ballistics could

be achieved using a case just 0.85 inches long, thus allowing the cartridge to be chambered in medium-frame pistols just like the 9mm. So, the .40 S&W was born. Almost overnight, S&W, Glock, Beretta, Sig Sauer, HK, Ruger and others began producing medium-sized, service-type handguns

for this new cartridge. As the big state, local and federal agencies transitioned to the .40 S&W, smaller outfits followed suit. Today, despite the resurgence of the 9mm, the .40 S&W is still used by a huge number of law enforcement agencies, and whatever cops favor tends to see lots of use by the legally armed citizenry.

While the handgun is the omnipresent tool of LEOs and citizens carrying concealed, the long gun certainly has its place. In years past, this weapon was most commonly a pump-action shotgun, but more and more agencies and individ-

Photo courtesy
Rock River Arms

THE .40

TO ITS LIMITS!



uals have switched to rifles and AR-style carbines in recent years. Depending upon the unit, the location or the need, the AR could be chambered in anything from 5.56mm to 7.62mm NATO or a number of other full-bore rifle cartridges. However, some might find that an AR in the same caliber as their handgun could be useful, much like lawmen in the Old West. The extra barrel length, better sights, stock and increased ammo capacity certainly offer advantages. A pistol-caliber carbine will typically have a shorter maximum range and less penetration than its larger-caliber counterparts, which is especially useful in urban environments. For patrol

uses, a pistol-caliber AR makes a lot of sense, as it extends the useful range and accuracy of the service handgun cartridge and can even add a logistical advantage.

With all of this in mind, I wanted to test an AR chambered in .40 S&W, and Rock River Arms (RRA) provided just the ticket with its LAR-40 CAR A4 carbine.

The RRA LAR-40 CAR A4 carbine can use the same .40 S&W ammunition as your duty sidearm.

The LAR-40 CAR A4 has a 16-inch barrel, an overall length of 36 inches with its

stock fully extended, and an unloaded weight of 7.1 pounds. The flattop upper receiver makes it easy to mount iron sights or optics. The upper also features a standard charging handle, but you'll notice that there's no forward assist. Instead, an enlarged shell deflector made of polymer is installed. The barrel is made of chrome-moly steel with a 1-in-16-inch twist rate. The muzzle has 5/8x32 threading and comes capped with an A2-style flash suppressor.

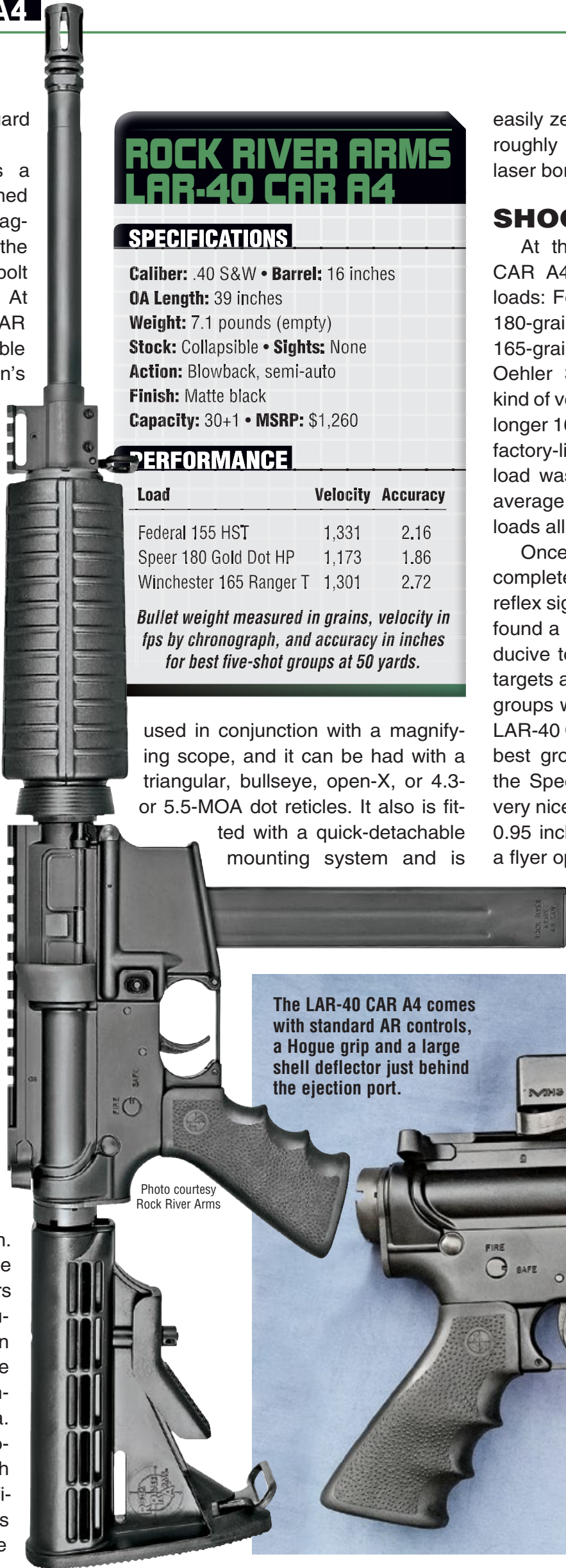
The gas block features a short rail for adding a front sight, but I found it the perfect place to mount my Safariland RLS tactical light. When properly attached, this light is in the 11 or 1 o'clock position so it won't interfere with sights, and it's easy to activate while grasping

the traditional polymer handguard with my support hand.

The lower receiver sports a magazine well that is designed specifically for .40 S&W stick magazines. The controls, including the magazine release, safety and bolt release, are typical for an AR. At the rear is RRA's Tactical CAR buttstock, a six-position-adjustable stock that can bring the weapon's overall length down to 32 inches when fully collapsed—good for tight places.

The carbine is equipped with sling swivels at the front and rear, and its black hard-coat anodizing gives it a very business-like appearance. A close examination of the LAR-40 CAR A4's exterior indicates quality of manufacture with strict attention paid to its fit and finish. I couldn't find any exterior machine marks or other surface imperfections. For field-stripping information, see the owner's manual.

As I was already making good use of the forward rail for my tactical light, I decided to mount an optical sight on the flattop upper. And, to evaluate the LAR-40 CAR A4 from an LE perspective, I wanted a rugged sight that was simple to use and didn't require batteries. My solution was the Meprolight MEPRO 21 reflex sight. In a crisis, I don't want to have to search for switches or activation pressure pads, or worry about dead batteries. Thankfully, The MEPRO 21 is always on and ready for action. By day, fiber optics illuminate the aiming point while tritium powers the sight at night. The sight automatically transitions between these two systems to ensure good contrast between the aiming point and the target area. The 30mm-diameter lens provides fast target acquisitions with both eyes open and is specifically designed for close-quarters combat. The MEPRO 21 can be



ROCK RIVER ARMS
LAR-40 CAR A4

SPECIFICATIONS
Caliber: .40 S&W • **Barrel:** 16 inches
OA Length: 39 inches
Weight: 7.1 pounds (empty)
Stock: Collapsible • **Sights:** None
Action: Blowback, semi-auto
Finish: Matte black
Capacity: 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,260

PERFORMANCE

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal 155 HST	1,331	2.16
Speer 180 Gold Dot HP	1,173	1.86
Winchester 165 Ranger T	1,301	2.72

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 50 yards.

used in conjunction with a magnifying scope, and it can be had with a triangular, bullseye, open-X, or 4.3- or 5.5-MOA dot reticles. It also is fitted with a quick-detachable mounting system and is

easily zeroed with large slotted screws. I roughly sighted my MEPRO 21 using a laser bore-sighting device.

SHOOTING TIME

At the range, I tested the LAR-40 CAR A4 with three different .40 S&W loads: Federal's 155-grain HST, Speer's 180-grain Gold Dot HP and Winchester's 165-grain Ranger T-Series HP. I used an Oehler 35P chronograph to see what kind of velocities I'd get with the LAR-40's longer 16-inch barrel. As an example, the factory-listed velocity of the Federal HST load was 1,145 fps, but it produced an average of 1,331 fps in testing. The other loads all had similar results.

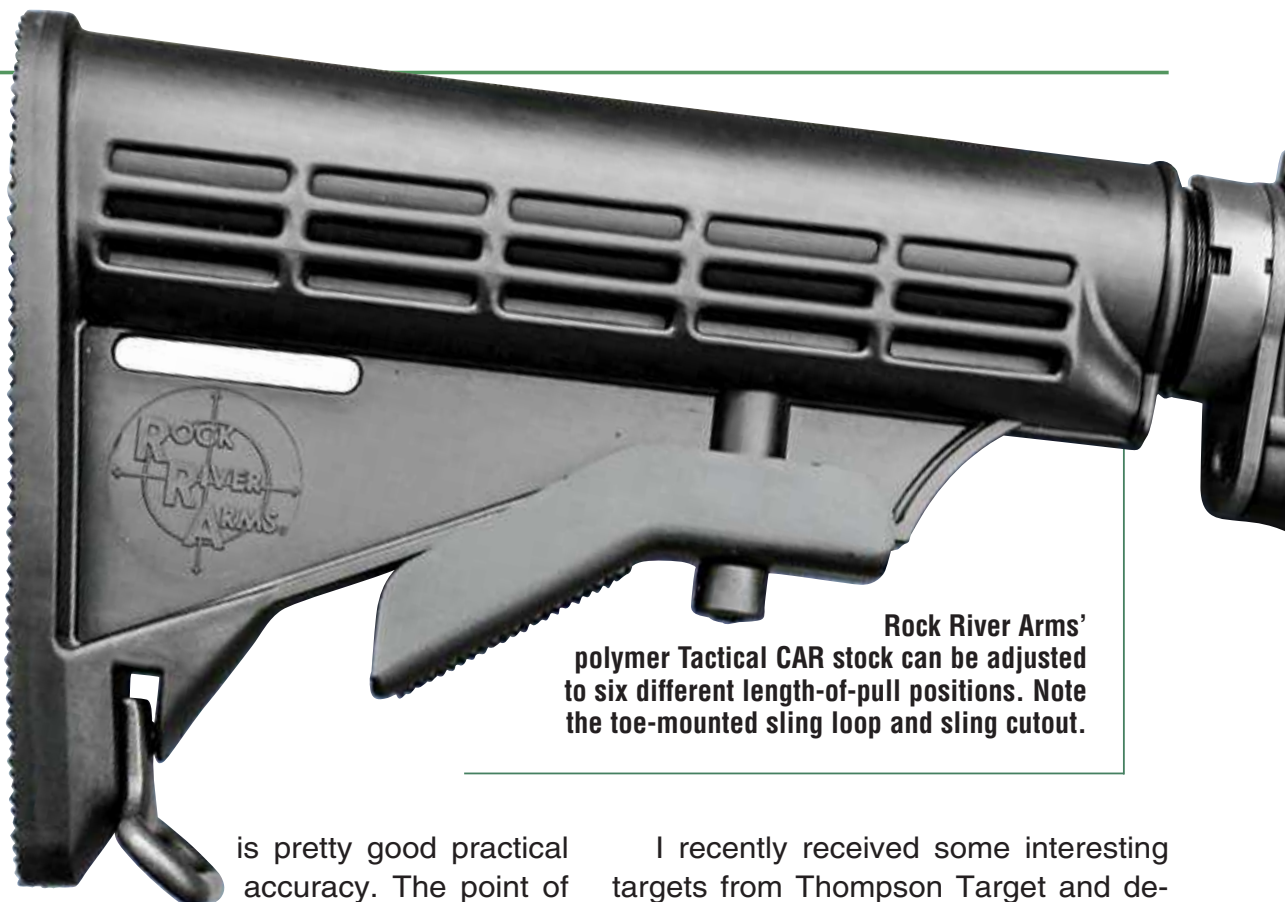
Once the chronographing session was completed, I fine-tuned the MEPRO 21 reflex sight atop the LAR-40 CAR A4 and found a point of aim/point of impact conducive to the test ammo. Then I placed targets at 50 yards and fired three 5-shot groups with each of the loads to test the LAR-40 CAR A4's accuracy potential. My best group measured 1.86 inches with the Speer Gold Dot cartridges. I had a very nice four-shot cluster that measured 0.95 inches using the Federal HST, but a flyer opened it up to 2.16 inches. None of the groups were over 2.88 inches, and at 50 yards with my 61-year-old eyes, I feel that

The LAR-40 CAR A4 comes with standard AR controls, a Hogue grip and a large shell deflector just behind the ejection port.

Photo courtesy Rock River Arms



The flattop upper receiver makes it easy to attach sights and optics, such as the Meprolight MEPRO 21 shown.



Rock River Arms' polymer Tactical CAR stock can be adjusted to six different length-of-pull positions. Note the toe-mounted sling loop and sling cutout.

is pretty good practical accuracy. The point of aim and point of impact were pretty close and would easily put the shots in the "boiler room" at 50 yards or more. My MEPRO 21 came with an orange open-X reticle, and I had no problem seeing it in sunny conditions.

I recently received some interesting targets from Thompson Target and decided to use one of them to see what kind of practical accuracy I could expect at 50 yards with the LAR-40 CAR A4. This target is basically a B-27 with red "stop" or immobilization zones, including the head and upper vertebrae, up-



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TAC SHIELD CLEANING KITS



The author tested the LAR-40 in realistic situations from a number of positions, including off-hand and from behind barricades. He mounted a Safariland RLS flashlight on the gas block.

per thoracic and pelvic girdle. The target highlights vital organs and shows the skeletal system, and the skeleton is pointing a big revolver so you know it's a lethal-force situation. For the head/pelvic girdle shots I wanted to have some added stability, so I used a standing barricade position. For the upper chest shots, I used a standing off-hand position. I fully loaded one of the 30-round magazines with a mix of the .40 S&W test ammunition and fired nine to 10 shots in each of the three immobilization zones. My shots hit home for the most part. I skidded a couple off the skull and one wild shot hit the right shoulder socket. I also scored one hit to the revolver cylinder. My "bad guy" was definitely in trouble, and again, the reflex sight's aiming point showed up well in contrast to the target.

RAPID FIRE

The remainder of my shooting was at steel pig silhouettes placed at 50 yards. This was the real fun part of the test, and I found that if I put that orange X on the center of the pig



and squeezed the trigger properly, I could topple one right after the other. I emptied several 30-round magazines in this manner—shooting as rapidly as I could acquire a target and press the trigger.

I shot 150 rounds of the test ammunition and didn't experience a single malfunction or hiccup of any kind. The 30-round stick magazines were easy to load using an UpLULA universal magazine loader, and they dropped free when the magazine release was pushed. Empty ejections with aplomb, and the LAR-40 CAR A4 was easy to handle in rapid fire.

Anyone familiar with the AR platform will be right at home with this carbine. It upped the performance of the .40 S&W cartridge, and I would have full confidence taking this carbine out into the field to augment my service sidearm. For more information, visit rockriverarms.com or call 866-980-7625.

The magazine well is specifically designed to use long stick magazines that hold 30 rounds, offering LEOs plenty of firepower.

I own a lot of gun cleaning kits, and I keep them in a big bag.

Every time I am cleaning my guns, I end up spending half my time digging through the bag looking for the one accessory I need. I could be better organized or someone could do it for me. Thankfully, the new Tac Shield cleaning kits arrived just in time and include everything I needed in one convenient and portable case.

I used the company's 9mm cleaning kit on a trip to Gunsite Academy that involved a lot of shooting and a lot of cleaning.

The kit was exactly what I needed, and it comes loaded with helpful tools and features. You get a standard brass, push-through, segmented cleaning rod, 25 cleaning patches, a bronze bore brush, a bronze cleaning jag, a slotted polymer cleaning tip, a cotton mop, a very comfortable and convenient rod handle and a six-piece set of bits for repairs and adjustments that fit onto the cleaning rod handle. The only thing I added was a small bottle of CLP and a cleaning rag.



These kits are available for .45-caliber handguns as well as for 5.56mm NATO/.223 Remington rifles with a pull-through cleaning cable. Each come packed in a compact plastic carrying box about the size of a small paperback book with a clear lid and a secure latch to keep it closed. Mine survived the usual airline handling with the contents intact and in place. Well designed, well considered and well built, what more could anyone ask? For more information, visit tacshield.com or call 910-687-4695. —Jorge Amselle

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GUN TEST

7.62 SEMI-AUTO



The Sig Sauer 716 DMR

Designated marksman rifles (DMRs) have been around for years.

Traditionally, they were accurized versions of concurrent combat rifles. Typically semi-automatic, they provide better accuracy than the standard-issue rifle while maintaining increased firepower. They must be accurate, but not necessarily as precise as a typical sniper rifle. Generally, they are issued to observers paired with a sniper who is armed with a precision bolt-action rifle. They can also be issued to unit marksmen who may not operate as part of a typical sniper-observer team.

This description is still somewhat accurate, but time, technology and

changing battlefields have altered the norm significantly. Once the purview of the military operator, police departments now issue DMRs. The accuracy of these weapons has improved considerably, with many rivaling bolt actions. They are lighter, more reliable and more useful than ever. Military units are clamoring for these weapons because of today's asymmetric warfare, and many police departments are strongly considering adopting DMRs. Given the proliferation of the AR-platform rifle in both arenas, it remains the first choice, with the 7.62mm NATO being the primary chambering.

Some early 7.62mm AR rifles had serious reliability issues and weren't very precise. Installing a suppressor generally made them less reliable, and they did

not like to feed polymer-tipped ammunition or the barrier rounds of the day. But things have changed, and most of those issues have disappeared due to higher manufacturing quality. Most DMRs are still direct-impingement designs, while a few are piston-driven, including one of the newest, Sig Sauer's SIG716 DMR.

HANDS ON

Sig Sauer's SIG716 DMR has several enhancements. Using the tried-and-true short-stroke pushrod operating system, the SIG716 DMR has a four-position gas valve that can be adjusted for adverse conditions or suppressor use. The rifle features a match-grade, 18-inch barrel with six-groove, 1-in-10-inch-twist rifling. The muzzle has 5/8x24 threading to



Photo courtesy Sig Sauer

Sig Sauer's piston-driven SIG716 DMR is a smooth-shooting powerhouse, making it perfect for any designated marksman.

SNIPEER

brings power and speed for today's designated marksmen! **By David Bahde**

accommodate muzzle attachments or a suppressor, and the rifle comes with a knurled threat protector.

The SIG716 DMR's quad-rail forend is longer than the standard SIG716 Patrol's, with the gas block positioned farther forward. The forend's Picatinny top rail mates nicely to the flattop upper receiver's, providing plenty of space for mounting scopes, sights, lasers or night vision. Quick-detach (QD) sling cups are positioned at the front and rear on both sides of the forend, and several cutouts along the forend help dissipate barrel heat and reduce weight without sacrificing strength. Flip-up front and rear sights come with the SIG716 DMR, so it's ready for action right out of the box.

The SIG716 DMR ran well with a Vixen Optics scope, a Gemtech Sandstorm suppressor and an LRA bipod.



SIG SAUER 716 DMR

The lower receiver has all the same controls as the standard SIG716 Patrol, but the trigger is a crisp, two-stage, match-grade unit for increased accuracy, and it remains consistent enough for operational use. The SIG716 DMR also features a Magpul MIAD pistol grip and a Magpul PRS buttstock, which offers a bit more adjustability over a standard mil-spec stock and locks into position solidly. Magpul PRS stocks can be adjusted for both comb height and length of pull. My test rifle was an early sample, however, that came with a Magpul UBR stock, which is adjustable for length of pull and features an internal storage compartment as well as several sling-mounting options.

Sig Sauer also shipped my test rifle with a Harris bipod and all of the necessary parts to attach it to the bottom forend rail. It also came with a sling, one

20-round magazine and the additional backstraps for the Magpul MIAD pistol grip. It was pretty much ready to go right out of the box.

ADD-ONS

I added a few things for testing, starting with a suppressor. Gemtech's Sandstorm has served me well over the last year during several rifle tests. It remains the lightest precision rifle suppressor I've tested to date, and its sound suppression is excellent with little or no shifts in point of impact. Constructed of titanium, it weighs in at a mere 13.3 ounces. It threaded onto the SIG716 DMR easily and snugged up nicely.

Next I added a Vixen Optics 5-20x50mm VII scope with an illuminated mil-dot reticle. With a 30mm tube and an overall length of 13.9 inches, it fits nicely on AR-style rifles.



While current models of the SIG716 DMR come with a Magpul PRS stock, the author tested an early model with a Magpul UBR buttstock.

Photo courtesy Sig Sauer

SIG SAUER SIG716 DMR

SPECIFICATIONS	PERFORMANCE
Caliber: 7.62mm NATO	Load Velocity Accuracy
Barrel: 18 inches	Black Hills 180 AccuBond2,4000.78
OA Length: 38.25 inches	Federal 168 Gold Medal Match BTHP2,5050.75
Weight: 12.3 pounds (empty)	Federal 178 Gold Medal Match BTHP2,4400.64
Stock: Magpul PRS • Capacity: 20+1	Federal M118 LR2,4400.51
Sights: Flip-up front and rear	Silver State Armory 175 OTM2,4290.60
Action: Piston-operated semi-auto	
Finish: Hardcoat anodized black	
MSRP: \$2,970	

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.

Thanks to its adjustable gas system, the SIG716 DMR didn't miss a beat during testing when a suppressor was installed.



With a retail price at around a grand, Vixen's VII scopes are pretty affordable and so far have proven to be high quality.

I used my Long Range Accuracy (LRA) bipod to ensure the greatest stability during accuracy testing. This bipod is solid, and it cradles the rifle, holding it lower and more centered. This particular bipod generally sits on my competition precision rifle, and I've used in on numerous rifles with great effect.

DOWNRANGE

The test rifle came with a test target showing a group measuring a bit under 0.7 MOA, which is impressive for an AR-type rifle in this caliber, especially one that is piston driven. This group was indicative of my testing. Every load I used during testing grouped under 0.8 inches, with my best group, using Federal's M118LR ammo, measuring 0.51 inches. Like many of these rifles, the SIG716 DMR was designed to meet military requirements, so the M118LR or similar loads seem to work best. Federal's 175-grain Gold Medal Match was very close at 0.6 inches. The rifle seemed to have a preference for the heavier bullets,



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Photo: Wes Doss, Khyber Training

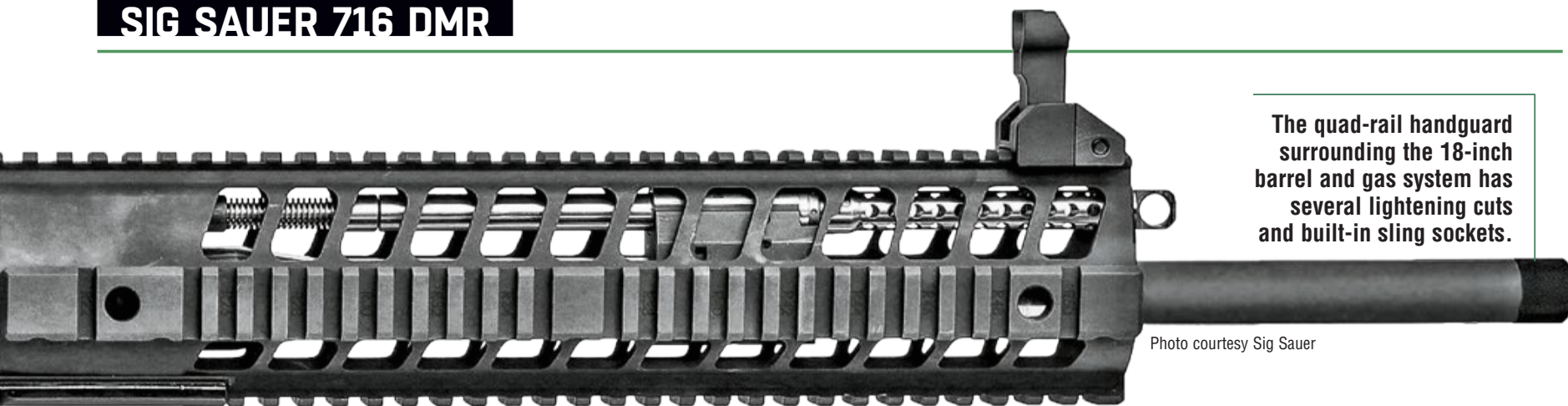
The all new AUG A3 M1 and the L9-A1 pistol, the perfect combination for sports shooters and law enforcement professionals, alike.

AUG A3 M1 Rifle
The new multi-configurable AUG A3 M1 variant of the Steyr's venerable bullpup platform marks the introduction of MUD and the return of OD Green to its stock color options and adds new features like a front Quick-Disconnect Sling Swivel to classic characteristics like the quick-detach 16-inch barrel and battle-proven short-stroke gas-piston operation. It is available in Short-Rail, High-Rail and Integrated Optic versions with either a 1.5X or 3X scope. At 28.15 inches, Y SBR?

L-A1 Pistol
Featuring a full-length slide, 4.5-inch cold-hammer-forged barrel and 17-round magazine capacity for its 9x19mm Luger chambering and 12 rounds for .40 S&W, the new L-A1 service pistol was designed for the serious shooter to serve the dual role of a duty and sporting handgun. With its comfortable ergonomics, a remarkably low bore axis, a crisp short-reset trigger, extreme reliability and amazing accuracy, the L-A1 is the perfect partner on the range and off.

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The quad-rail handguard surrounding the 18-inch barrel and gas system has several lightening cuts and built-in sling sockets.

Photo courtesy Sig Sauer

with all of them shooting into between 0.6 and 0.7 inches. For each group, I started from a closed bolt and charged the first round manually. Many semi-automatics will experience a significant shift between the first and fifth round, but this wasn't the case with the SIG716 DMR. I did not see any appreciable difference in grouping. This semi-auto rifle was more accurate than several bolt-action rifles I've tested.

Suppressing AR rifles can be a chore, especially in this caliber. But that wasn't the case with this rifle. Installing my Gemtech Sandstorm, the SIG716 DMR was extremely reliable. Moving the gas adjustment knob to the "suppressed" mode, the rifle ejected nicely and was really soft to shoot. Removing the suppressor, there was no appreciable shift in the point of impact—less than 0.5 inches. The sound suppression was excellent, and rifle remained soft shooting. I'm sure the SIG716 DMR semi-auto would also work well with Sig Sauer's new line of sound suppressors.

As expected, the rifle's reliability was flawless. When I tested an earlier SIG716 model, it yielded some of the most reliable operation of any AR-type rifle I've tested in 7.62mm NATO. This rifle is no less reliable—it's just quite a bit more accurate. All of the outstanding ergonomics remain, including the mul-

tiple sling-attachment points and ambidextrous safety and magazine release.

Removing the suppressor and bipod, the SIG716 DMR was pretty light, very well balanced and worked incredibly well even in full kit—including while wearing a plate carrier. Using a red dot, a low-power optic or even the included iron sights would make this an incredibly accurate patrol rifle. The Magpul UBR stock also grew on me with use. It really adds to the rifle's versatility.

Vixen's VII scope worked well, with clear glass and precise adjustments. While not a big fan of 0.13-MOA adjustments, it was workable. The scope maintained its zero and allowed for excellent accuracy, and the mil-dot reticle subtended properly.

VERSATILE FIGHTER

Sig Sauer's SIG716 DMR is very versatile. My testing indicates that it is more than suitable as a dedicated precision rifle, especially for law enforcement applications. Mount a long-range optic and a dedicated sound suppressor, and it would serve any police marksman well. Cold-bore testing revealed the rifle's consistency, with subsequent shots showing almost no shifts in the point of impact. In this configuration, recoil is minimal, allowing for very fast follow-up

shots. With its 18-inch barrel, the rifle fits in a standard sniper drag bag with the suppressor attached.

Moving to a more typical DMR role, it can be equipped with a lower-power scope like a Trijicon VCOG or another parallax-free 1X variable. Using the UBR stock, it works in full kit, making it more versatile on deployment. Remove the suppressor and it is very handy, well balanced and suitable for use in a number of conditions. Swap out the scope for iron sights or a holographic or red-dot sight and you have a fantastic patrol rifle with superb accuracy. Shipped with excellent iron sights, the SIG716 DMR could hit the streets right out of the box. Just add your preferred ammunition.

With a retail price of \$2,970, the piston-driven SIG716 DMR in 7.62mm NATO is an incredible value. Having tested rifles with fewer features but price tags closer to \$4,000, the SIG716 DMR is very competitively priced. As an agency, you'll save even more, making it a fantastic choice for law enforcement. Either way, it is an accurate and reliable piston-driven rifle with increased versatility that is seldom matched these days. If you are in need of a precision AR with a ton of solid features, make sure you check out the SIG716 DMR. For more information, visit sigsauer.com or call 603-610-3000.



The full-length Picatinny top rail makes it easy to add optics along with flip-up backup sights.

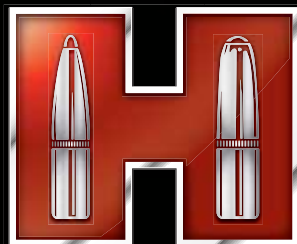
The 18-inch, match-grade barrel comes with 5/8x24 threading for suppressor use.

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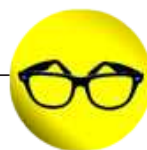
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HEAR NO EVIL

Electronic hearing protection that blocks gunfire without shutting out everything else!

BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

If a sound reaches 85 decibels, it can cause permanent hearing damage.

A normal conversation is around 60 decibels. Riding the subway: 90 decibels. An MP3 player's earbuds can reach over 100 decibels, and gunshots can range from 140 to 190 decibels. At times I'm not sure if it was The Who, Van Halen or all those .22 LR rounds fired without hearing protection years ago that hurt my hearing capabilities. If you are like me and train as often as you can, hearing protection is a must-have item. In fact, using ear protection is as natural and automatic to me now as buckling my seatbelt when I get into my vehicle.

Most electronic hearing protection offers at least a 19-decibel noise-reduction rating (NRR) and many offer an NRR up to 30 decibels. If you are a shooter that is really noise sensitive, try using foam earplugs and electronic earmuffs. The noise will be cut significantly while still allowing you to hearing normal conversations.

Here are some of the best electronic hearing protection devices that will allow you to hear what you need to and not the scream of a 55-grain bullet coming out of your barrel at over 2,000 fps.



PELTOR TACTICAL 6S BEHIND THE HEAD EARMUFFS

With an NRR of 20 decibels, the Peltor Tactical 6S Behind The Head Earmuffs are a good choice to blot out loud noises while amplifying conversations. The low-profile ear cups are designed to not interfere with shoulder-fired weapons. Each earmuff has its own volume control and is powered by four AAA batteries. The behind-the-head band allows users to comfortably wear hats or helmets. (3m.com; 888-364-3577)



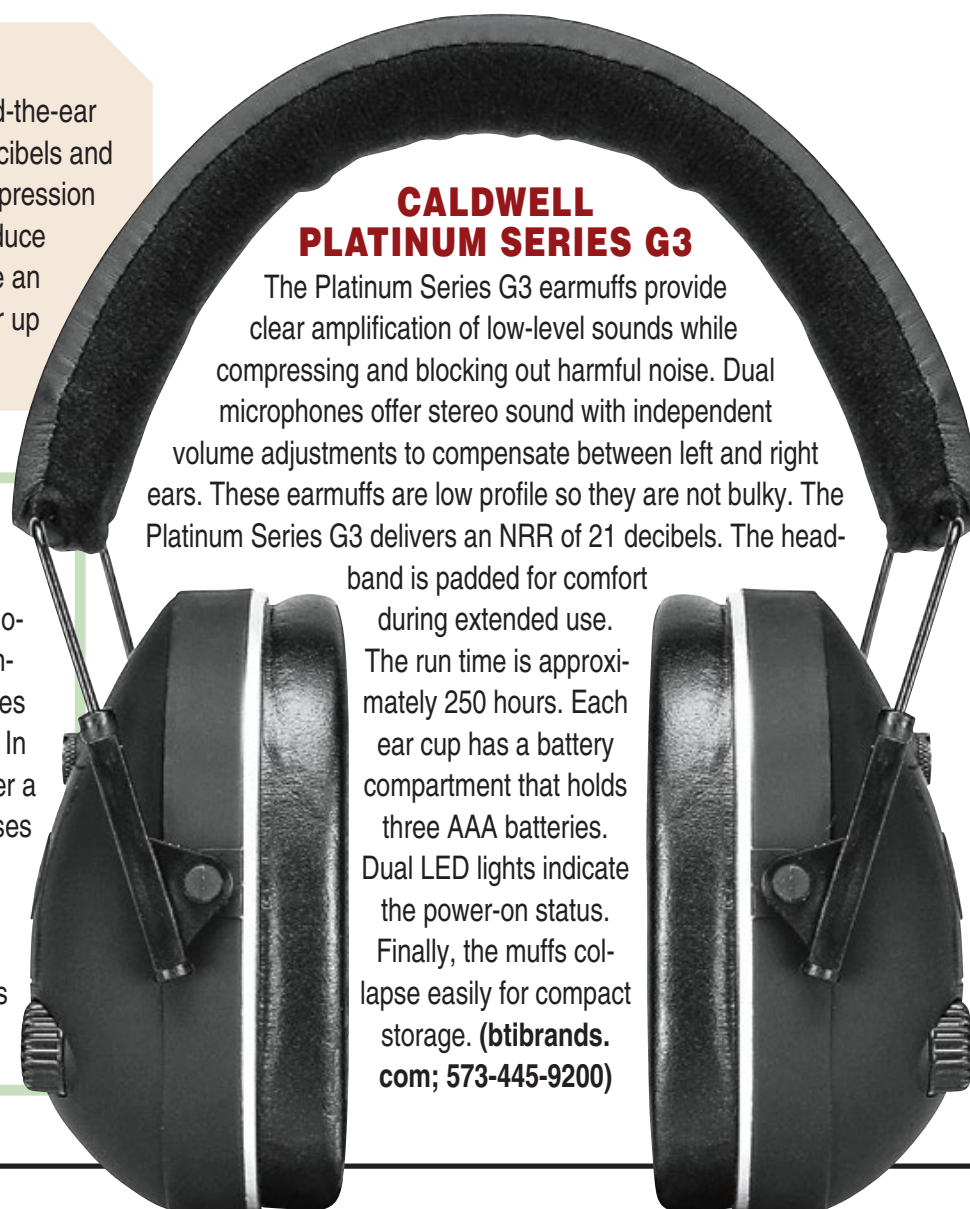
RADIANS TAC EAR

The Tac Ear earplugs are compact, behind-the-ear units that suppress loud noises over 85 decibels and amplify ambient sound. Radians uses compression technology to take an unsafe sound and reduce it to a safer level. The Tac Ear earplugs have an NRR of 29 decibels and run on LR-44 batteries for up to 180 working hours. (radians.com; 877-723-4267)



ETYMOTIC EB15 LE BLASTPLG

The EB15 LE BlastPLG earplugs are designed for users in who work in environments with continuous loud noises, like gunfire, explosions, loud vehicles and machinery. The earplugs allow you to maintain natural hearing while protecting your ears from impulses and continuous loud noises using a dual-mode switch. In Mode 1, the earplugs maintain natural hearing and offer a sound reduction of 15 decibels for continuous loud noises and maximum blast protection. In Mode 2, the plugs amplify conversational sounds up to five times while offering maximum blast protection. They run on #10 hearing aid batteries and last for up to 10 days. This set comes with numerous ear inserts and a carry case. (etymotic.com; 888-389-6684)



CALDWELL PLATINUM SERIES G3

The Platinum Series G3 earmuffs provide clear amplification of low-level sounds while compressing and blocking out harmful noise. Dual microphones offer stereo sound with independent volume adjustments to compensate between left and right ears. These earmuffs are low profile so they are not bulky. The Platinum Series G3 delivers an NRR of 21 decibels. The headband is padded for comfort during extended use. The run time is approximately 250 hours. Each ear cup has a battery compartment that holds three AAA batteries. Dual LED lights indicate the power-on status. Finally, the muffs collapse easily for compact storage. (btibrands.com; 573-445-9200)



SPORTEAR M SERIES MUFFS

The M Series Muffs electronic earmuffs feature sound-activated compression that blocks all sounds over 85 decibels, plus it enhances hearing up to 10 times normal hearing. With a 25-decibel NRR, these muffs are available in either a two- or four-microphone configurations. The directional microphone allows a user to pinpoint a sound's location and adjust the volume with dual adjustable controls. The tapered ear cup design gives the M Series Muffs a low profile for use with shoulder-fired weapons. They fold up for easy storage and have an audio input jack. (axilpro.com; 866-422-5502)

ESP DYNAMIC

The Dynamic earplugs from ESP feature six auto environmental settings with 16 channels and bands that are enhanced by a built-in omnidirectional microphone that can pick up, auto-calibrate and place noises all around the shooter. The noise compressions starts at 70db with a maximum output of 90db, while the earplugs magnify low-level sounds up to 20 decibels. The earplugs have a 25-decibel NRR. The custom-fit plugs fit inside the ear and use ordinary #13 hearing aid batteries with a run time of 300 hours. The Dynamic earplugs use a P2i Aridion nano-coating that repels water and protects the ear. (espamerica.com; 303-659-8844)



WESTONE DEFENDEAR DIGITAL 1

The DefendEar Digital 1 provides a single mode of operation for good all-around hearing protection, wind reduction and ambient amplification. With an NRR of 26 decibels, the advanced digital sound processing offers volume control and a low battery warning. The medical-grade silicone insert is durable and comfortable for extended wear. The modular design of the DefendEar Digital 1 allows easy removal of electronics for cleaning, service and future upgrades. One #312 battery powers the earplugs for about 150 hours. (westone.com; 800-525-5071)

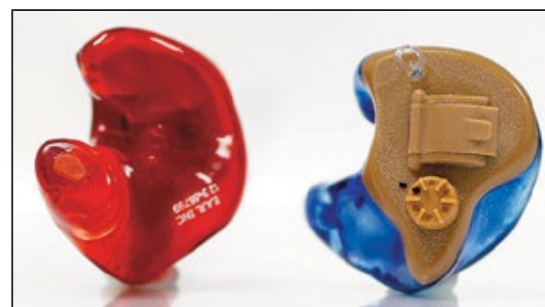
HOWARD LEIGHT IMPACT SPORT

The Impact Sport earmuffs block out noise levels over 82 decibels and amplify normal tones and conversations by three times. The low-profile ear cups are designed to clear most rifle stocks. The padded headband is fully adjustable and conveniently folds for compact transport. Powered by two AAA batteries, the Impact Sport has an automatic shut-off to increase its battery life, which can be as long as 350 hours. One single knob controls the power and volume, and an auxiliary jack allows a user to connect to an MP3 player or other other devices. (howardleight.com; 800-430-5490)



E.A.R. DIGITAL PRIMO MULTI-MEMORY

The Digital Primo Multi-Memory offers better speech discrimination and clarity for vowel sounds and high-end frequencies. The multi-memory feature is effective for users who are constantly surrounded by wind and other background sounds. With a simple push of a button, the user can go from a normal enhancement and protection mode to a further suppressed background sound mode. The units also features adjustable volume and tone controls. These earplugs are available in canal, half- and full-shell configurations. (earinc.com; 800-525-2690)



SOUNDGEAR CUSTOM SILVER LEVEL

The Custom Silver Level earplugs from Sound Gear suppress noises at 95 decibels and offer an NRR of 24 decibels. They also offer 30-decibel amplification or 8X sound enhancement so you can talk in your normal tone and still be heard. The earplugs fit inside your ear and are made of soft plastic so they can be worn for extended periods of time. The units use common #13 batteries with a run time that typically lasts 18 to 20 days once activated. Finally, these earplugs feature Sound-Gear's patented HearClear wax protection system that protects the earplugs from wax and debris. (soundgearhearing.com; 800-769-8605)

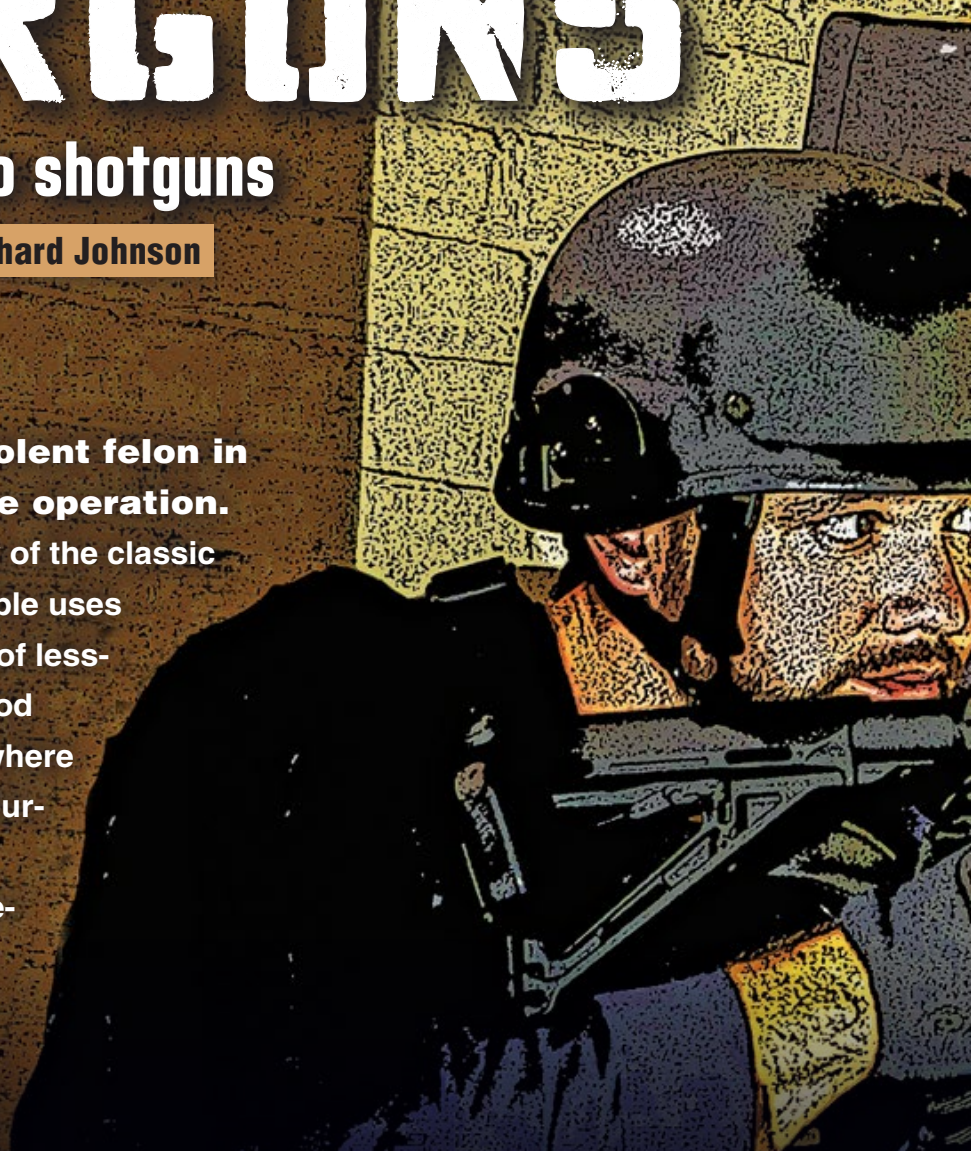
12-GAUGE SCATTERGUNS

Twelve pump-action and semi-auto shotguns ready to handle any mission! **By Richard Johnson**

A blast from a 12-gauge shotgun can stop a violent felon in his tracks or unhinge a door in a hostage-recue operation.

In fact, few things can match both the power and flexibility of the classic scattergun. As the times have changed, so have the possible uses of these smoothbore guns. With the widespread adoption of less-lethal munitions, these powerful guns—combined with good tactics—can actually save the lives of suspects in cases where deadly force is authorized. However, the shotgun's main purpose—stopping bad guys—remains its primary mission.

Just like the lawmen of years past, modern law enforcement officers continue to use shotguns with good effect. Here is a look at some of the tactical shotguns available to modern law enforcement officers.



BENELLI M4 TACTICAL

Currently used by both the U.S. military and many law enforcement agencies, the Benelli M4



is a semi-automatic shotgun with a track record of performance in harsh conditions. Many consider this shotgun to be the gold standard of combat shotguns. It is a semi-automatic, gas-operated scattergun with many desirable features, including ghost-ring sights, a Picatinny top rail and a pistol grip. Matte black is standard, but Cerakote finishes are available. (benelliusa.com; 301-283-6981)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18.5 inches • OA LENGTH: 40 inches • WEIGHT: 7.8 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Front post, adjustable rear • ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 5+1 • MSRP: \$1,999

BERETTA 1301 TACTICAL

Impressive. That's the first word that pops into my mind when describing the 1301



Tactical shotgun from Beretta. The gun has proven to be reliable with all kinds of loads, and the semi-automatic system kept on humming no matter how fast I pulled the trigger. These guns are fitted with peep sights and oversized controls for ease of use under stress. The synthetic stock is durable and has texturing in all the right places. (beretta.com)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18.5 inches • OA LENGTH: 37.8 inches • WEIGHT: 6.7 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Front post, adjustable rear • ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 4+1 • MSRP: \$1,075



EOTech Photo

CZ 612 HC-P

Value is a term that is sometimes used to describe things that are cheaply built. But this is not the case with the CZ 612 HC-P.

Although affordable, CZ built this pump shotgun to handle everything a street cop can dish out. It has a pistol-grip stock for increased control and fiber-optic ghost-ring sights for fast aiming. A Picatinny rail allows for the addition of an optic if desired. For those who say gun companies don't have a sense of humor, the HC-P in the gun's name stands for "Horde Control-Pump." (cz-usa.com; 800-955-4486)



SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 20 inches • OA LENGTH: 39.5 inches • WEIGHT: 6.5 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Fiber optic • ACTION: Pump • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 4+1 • MSRP: \$369

EAA MKA 1919 MATCH

Clearly styled after the M16 and its derivatives, the MKA 1919 Match from European American Armory (EAA) Corporation is fed by a detachable magazine and has controls similar to many patrol rifles. It has an

ambidextrous safety to accommodate shooting from either shoulder. The gun



was originally designed for the rigors of 3-Gun competition, and it should perform well in a defensive role as well. (eaacorp.com; 321-639-4842)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18.5 inches • OA LENGTH: 39.5 inches • WEIGHT: 6.5 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Front post, adjustable rear • ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 5+1 • MSRP: \$699

12-GAUGE SCATTERGUNS



KALASHNIKOV USA US109T

Drawing from the design success of the AK platform, the US109T is a 12-gauge shotgun from Kalashnikov USA that offers many advantages over traditional scatterguns. The US109T uses detachable box magazines that allow an officer to quickly reload or even change ammunition types to meet their mission requirements. The semi-automatic action combines with the muzzle brake to reduce felt recoil, while the adjustable stock allows the gun to fit a wide range of officers.

(kalashnikov-usa.com; 866-611-9576)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber

BARREL: 18.25 inches • OA LENGTH: 36-40 inches

WEIGHT: 8.26 pounds (empty) • STOCK: CAA SKBS • SIGHTS: Fixed

ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 10+1 • MSRP: \$999



FN P-12

FN is known for making no-nonsense guns that reliably serve cops and soldiers alike. The P-12 shotgun upholds that tradition with a rugged pump-action design. This gun mates a chrome-lined barrel to an aluminum receiver topped with a Weaver rail for the addition of a red dot. A folding rear sight and fiber-optic front sight allow for immediate patrol use. The hardcoat anodized finish helps to prevent corrosion and wear during patrol duties. (fnhusa.com; 703-288-3500)

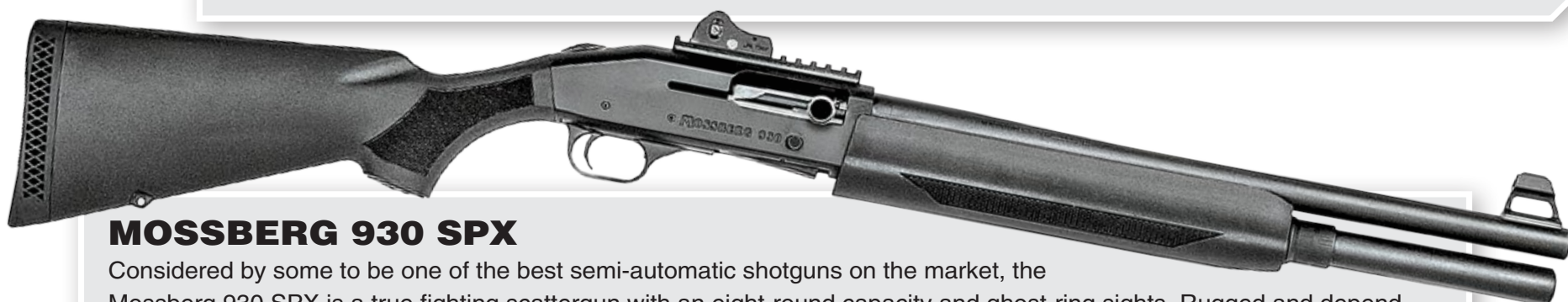
SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18 inches • OA LENGTH: 39 inches • WEIGHT: 7.4 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Fiber-optic front, flip-up rear • ACTION: Pump • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 5+1 • MSRP: \$669



REMINGTON 870 EXPRESS

A fixture in the law enforcement community for many decades, the venerable Remington 870 shotgun has served officers well. A popular choice for the budget-conscious agency, the current 870 Express with a synthetic stock offers a very good balance of reliability and price. It has a simple bead sight and fixed-length stock but can handle the rigors of daily use with ease. The pump action ensures light loads and less-lethal rounds will function correctly. (remington.com; 800-243-9700)

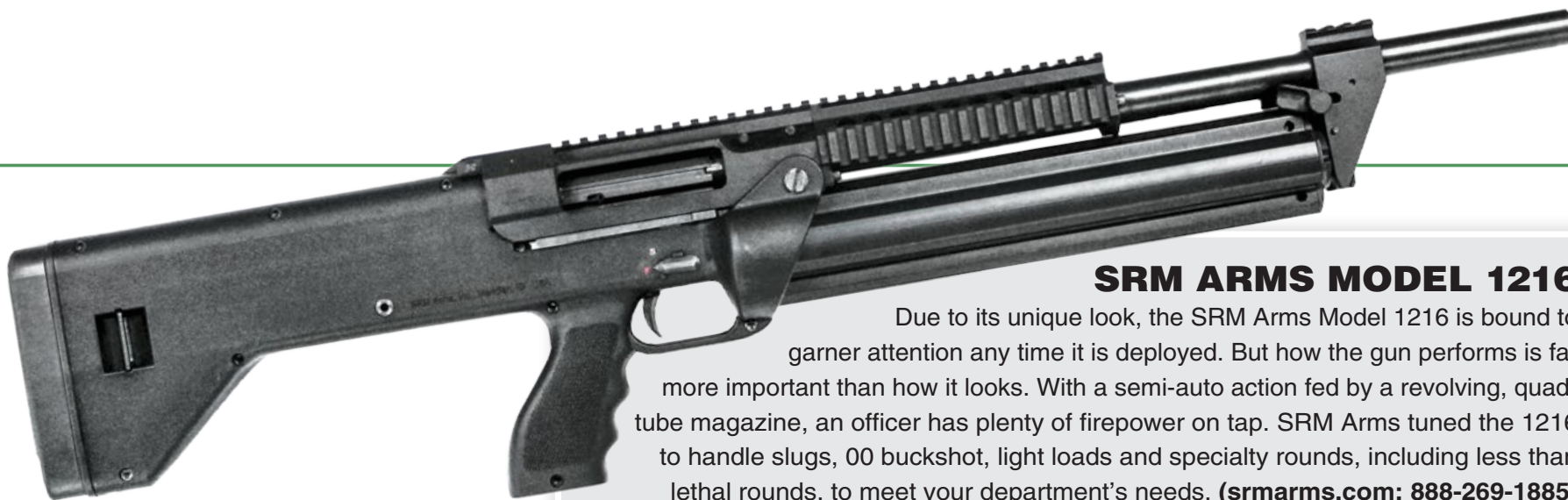
SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18 inches • OA LENGTH: 38.5 inches • WEIGHT: 7.25 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Front bead • ACTION: Pump • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 4+1 • MSRP: \$420



MOSSBERG 930 SPX

Considered by some to be one of the best semi-automatic shotguns on the market, the Mossberg 930 SPX is a true fighting scattergun with an eight-round capacity and ghost-ring sights. Rugged and dependable, this shotgun can stand up to the daily abuse law enforcement officers require from their equipment. The ambidextrous safety is left-hand friendly, and the Picatinny rail makes adding a reflex sight simple. (mossberg.com; 203-230-5300)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18.5 inches • OA LENGTH: 39 inches • WEIGHT: 6.75 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Fiber optic, Ghost ring • ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte blue • CAPACITY: 8+1 • MSRP: \$836



SRM ARMS MODEL 1216

Due to its unique look, the SRM Arms Model 1216 is bound to garner attention any time it is deployed. But how the gun performs is far more important than how it looks. With a semi-auto action fed by a revolving, quad-tube magazine, an officer has plenty of firepower on tap. SRM Arms tuned the 1216 to handle slugs, 00 buckshot, light loads and specialty rounds, including less than lethal rounds, to meet your department's needs. (srmarms.com; 888-269-1885)

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 18 inches • OA LENGTH: 32.5 inches
WEIGHT: 7.25 pounds (empty) • STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: None • ACTION: Semi-auto
FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 16+1 • MSRP: \$2,399



ROCK ISLAND ARMORY S605 TAC SA

One of the newest offerings in this list, the S605 TAC SA shotgun from Rock Island Armory offers a lot to like. The semi-automatic shotgun has a pistol-grip stock for easy shooting. an adjustable rear sight with a fiber-optic front sight that is protected by a metal flange. A weapon light and/or laser can be attached to the integral accessory rail on the handguard. (us.armscor.com; 775-537-1444)

Armory offers
Additionally, it has

SPECIFICATIONS GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • BARREL: 19.5 inches • OA LENGTH: 47 inches • WEIGHT: 7.05 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • SIGHTS: Fiber-optic front, adjustable rear • ACTION: Semi-auto • FINISH: Matte black • CAPACITY: 4+1 • MSRP: \$462

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12-GAUGE SCATTERGUNS

STOEGER P-350 DEFENSE

With the P-350 Defense, Stoeger offers a rugged, duty-ready shotgun without breaking the department budget. Starting at less than \$350, the P-350 Defense is a no-nonsense shotgun that uses a traditional pump action. A stock with a pistol grip is an option from Stoeger, though many will prefer the standard synthetic stock. A front blade sight offers an uncomplicated sight picture. (stoegerindustries.com; 301-283-6981)

SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 12; 3.5-inch chamber • **BARREL:** 18.5 inches
OA LENGTH: 40.25 inches
WEIGHT: 7.1 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • **SIGHTS:** Front blade
ACTION: Pump • **FINISH:** Matte black
CAPACITY: 4+1 • **MSRP:** \$349



UTAS UTS 15

Configured in a very compact platform, the UTAS UTS-15 shotgun gives an officer up to 15 rounds between reloads thanks to a pair of seven-round magazines. Since UTAS uses a bullpup configuration, the shotgun is easy for an officer to maneuver in tight confines. A full-length Picatinny rail allows for the easy addition of a red dot or optic. Sights, a laser and a flashlight are all optional upgrades on these guns. (utas-usa.com; 847-768-1011)

SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 12; 3-inch chamber • **BARREL:** 18.5 inches
OA LENGTH: 28.3 inches • **WEIGHT:** 7.5 pounds (empty)
STOCK: Synthetic • **SIGHTS:** None • **ACTION:** Pump
FINISH: Matte black • **CAPACITY:** 14+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,099

“
...few things
can match both
the power
and flexibility
of the classic scattergun.
”



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Educating instructors to pass on skills and knowledge. **BY FRED MASTISON**

Top instructors present material well, behave like professionals and perform at high levels.

There are few jobs in the world as influential as a fire-arms or combat instructor.

Unlike any other subject, the teaching of dangerous or even lethal force carries a responsibility like no other topic. Add to that the fact that students in these courses could be called on to use the information provided within hours. This is a serious dose of reality and a reminder that lives can be at stake. For those who have been in this field a very long time, another even more challenging component arises: training those who will teach as well. The most difficult task is training the trainer.

To the uninitiated, teaching can appear to be an easy gig. You just stand there and tell people how to do things. While this is an oversimplification of the attitude, it is essentially true. Few will see the methodology used to pass on this critical information in a relatively short amount of time.





Mastering this methodology is critical to teaching instructors how to teach. Those who come to an instructor's course are very proficient at the skills that will be taught. The task of the master trainer at this point is to teach them how to teach. While the core of this section could fill an encyclopedia, there are certain areas we can focus on, and they are known as the three "P's."

THE THREE P'S

Presentation of the given material must follow a logical and methodic path. Skills and principles should build successively on each other until the student has been exposed to multiple layers of information. A great way of putting it: Make the pieces of information bite sized so they are easily taken in.

Professionalism has become a cliché in much of life, but it is a cornerstone to building solid instructors. Unless it is a military course, boot camp is over. Yelling and screaming accomplishes nothing other than boosting your ego. Treating the new trainers as professionals is the best way to develop a solid product. Be firm, consistent and develop a strong rapport with students.

Performance is the final part of this trifecta. As a professional instructor, you should be able to do anything you ask your students to do cold. This means that, without any warm-up, you should be able to walk to the line and perfectly execute whatever it

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is that you are teaching. This is a standard that I hold myself to, as does every other serious professional in the training business.

KEEP YOUR EDGE

The refinement of technique and philosophy should be at the forefront of every instructor's mind. Times change, weapons improve and society evolves. What was very good information 20 years ago can in many cases now be antiquated. It is important to make sure you are teaching future instructors the most current and relevant information available. To do that, you must continue to train yourself. We need to park our egos and put our "student hats" on as much as possible. Seek out training by a variety of respected instructors around the country. While there are many big names on this list, do not be quick to dismiss smaller instructors who quietly provide world-class training. In many cases these instructors will be much more current on related techniques and tactics.

The skills in this realm are perishable and must be maintained. Even beyond taking part in other courses, master instructors need to practice the craft that they are teaching. Once again we will look at one of the "P" principles: performance. This does not happen magically. It can only be managed through serious training and repetition. Holding yourself to a high standard will not only put you in elite company, but it will also make you a strong role model for students in your classes.

BE CONSTRUCTIVE

There are many schools of thought on teaching methodologies. Regardless of what style is being used, it is essential to provide the students with feedback. If your students are professionals to begin with, you will rarely gain any ground with them by being demeaning and loud. These people have already been through their basics



Whether you teach basic skills to advanced tactics like breaching, you must constantly update your training.

and should be treated as such. As you work the class through drills, you must provide students with feedback on their performance and how it rates in comparison to what you require of them. Make corrections and keep them on track for success. Be quick to praise and slow to punish. The mistake you just saw a student make may have been the only one they made up to that point, but you happened to be there to witness it. If it becomes a pattern, make corrections. Students undeniably respond better to positive contact than negative. Do not confuse this with coddling students, which is equally as destructive and builds a false sense of confidence. But, in simple terms, let them know when they are doing it right. Set high expectations and show the students how to meet those expectations.

RUN IT RIGHT

When you run a training course, you must be serious about what you are doing. Having set beginning and end times as well as lunch breaks is essential to building a sense of professionalism in the class. Once again, you are setting the standards that many of these

students will emulate. Being late to class, having extended lunches or running late is simply unacceptable. A phrase I consistently live by is, "If you are five minutes early, then you are ten minutes late." Instructors need to be in the class long before the first student arrives. This not only sets a good example, but it also allows the instructor time to get everything set up for the class. It can also prove to be a very useful time to get your head in the game. While some will just "wing it," you will be better served by taking time to review the curriculum and revisit your game plan to get it covered.

FOLLOW UP

One of the greatest assets any instructor can have is their teacher. Take time to follow up with your students when possible. More importantly, make yourself available for questions after your students move out into the training field. You can be an exceptional resource for them in dealing with challenging students and situations. By offering this assistance, you once again put yourself at a level of professionalism that can be rare in today's world. More importantly, you could end up helping an instructor teach a student that may have never succeeded without you.

What you say as an instructor matters. While you may think it is an off-the-cuff remark, people will remember it. The standards that instructors are held to are much higher than anyone, and rightly so. The consequences for poor instruction can cost someone their life. Be thoughtful and humble about your techniques. Always remember that a student might be called on to fight for their life with your training. This should never be forgotten. In the end, you have a hand at creating a new set of instructors who will approach teaching with the same enthusiasm and passion as you—a passion for excellence and a commitment to help everyone get home safely at the end of their shift.



Instructors should always try to remain constructive and, most importantly, lead by example.

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CARRY SMALL, SHOOT BIG

**Kimber's Micro Crimson Carry
.380 ACP boasts mild
recoil, Crimson Trace
Lasergrips and more.**

By Paul Scarlata • Becky Scarlata photos

If you've been to a gun show recently, you might've noticed two trends in handguns: an increasing number of pistols chambered for the .380 ACP cartridge and an increasing number with integral laser sights.

And the pistol that I found so interesting not only combined both of these features, but also aped the appearance and handling of the Model 1911. I mean, what more could you ask for in a pocket pistol?

LEGACY OF THE .380

The cartridge under discussion here first saw the light of day in 1908 as the 9mm Browning Court (Short). Also known as the 9mm Kurz, 9mm Corto and 9x17mm, it was used as a service cartridge by the Italian, German, Hungarian, Austrian, Spanish, Dutch, Yugoslavian, Turkish and Czechoslovakian—to name but a few—police and armies up until the 1960s. On this side of the Big

Pond, several manufacturers offered pistols in the same caliber but, bowing to Americans' innate dislike of the metric system, the cartridge was rechristened the .380 ACP.

The original load consisted of a straight-walled, rimless case 17mm in length and topped with an FMJ bullet weighing between 85 and 95 grains and traveling at approximately 900 to 1,000 fps. While our European brethren considered such a round suitable for military and police service, in the U.S. it has generally been regarded as a low-end defensive cartridge. But in the past few years three trends have caused a dramatic increase of interest in .380 ACP pistols: materials, ballistics and concealed carry.

In the past, quality .380 ACP pistols (e.g., Colt Model 1908, Walther PP/PPK) were made of 100-percent steel and accordingly were quite heavy. The use of polymer and alloy frames in this class of pistols has lightened them significantly, making them much easier to carry all day.



The Micro Crimson Carry is a miniature 1911 in .380 ACP with a Crimson Trace laser that turns on when you firmly grip the gun.

Improved propellants and high-tech JHP bullets have dramatically improved the effectiveness of the .380 ACP cartridge, making it a much more practical choice for defensive purposes without any real increase in recoil or muzzle blast.

Finally, as more and more states have adopted “shall issue” CCW laws, the demand for small, lightweight handguns has skyrocketed.

Kimber has long been a major player in the 1911 pistol market, and the company’s pistols have proven popular with military and police agencies, such as MARSOC Marines and LAPD SWAT, competitive shooters like those on the USA Shooting Team, and civilian gun owners.

While Kimber offers compact and full-sized 1911 pistols, the burgeoning CCW market led the company to introduce its subcompact Solo series of 9mm pistols, which differed a bit from the 1911 genre. Then, in 2013, seeing the growth of demand for .380 ACP self-loaders, Kimber unveiled its Micro series of pistols. With the Micro series, Kimber has

returned to its roots, because these little .380s are little more than miniature 1911s. The Micro series has grown over the past two years and now includes a dozen models that are mechanically identical but feature different finishes, grips and sights. The one I received for testing is the Micro Crimson Carry, or MCC.

MICRO 1911

The MCC’s slide is machined from solid steel with a blade front sight and a low-mount rear sight, both of which are mounted in dovetail cuts. Also note that the sights are machined from steel, not plastic. As befits any “customized” 1911 pistol, the ejection port has been lowered and flared to ensure reliable ejection of spent cases, while square-cut grasping grooves allow the shooter to retract the slide securely for loading the pistol or clearing a malfunction.

Unlike many .380 ACP pistols, the MCC is a locked-breech design. A single lug on top of the stainless steel barrel mates

KIMBER MICRO CRIMSON CARRY

with a mortise inside the slide to lock the two units together, *a la* the 1911. When the pistol is fired, the slide unit recoils for a short distance whereupon an angled lug on the bottom of the barrel articulates on the slide stop shaft, pulling the barrel down and unlocking it from the slide.

The slide continues to the rear, extracting and ejecting the spent case, and is then pulled forward by the recoil spring, picking up the next round from the magazine and chambering it as it goes into battery. The pistol features a full-length recoil spring guide rod for reliable operation and consistent lockup.

The pistol's lightweight aluminum frame reinforces its 1911 *bona fides*. The thumb safety, slide stop lever and magazine release are all located in the proper positions and operate as expected. There is no grip safety, but a generously sized grip tang positions the pistol securely in the hand and helps dissipate recoil. Besides the thumb safety, a disconnecter prevents firing unless the slide is completely in battery while a firing pin block safety can only be deactivated by a full trigger stroke.

The little .380's recoil was very controllable, especially when using Kimber's optional extended magazine.



The Crimson Trace Lasergrips project a bright red dot on the target, even in bright daylight. Firing off-hand at 7 yards, the Micro Crimson Carry shot very respectable groups.

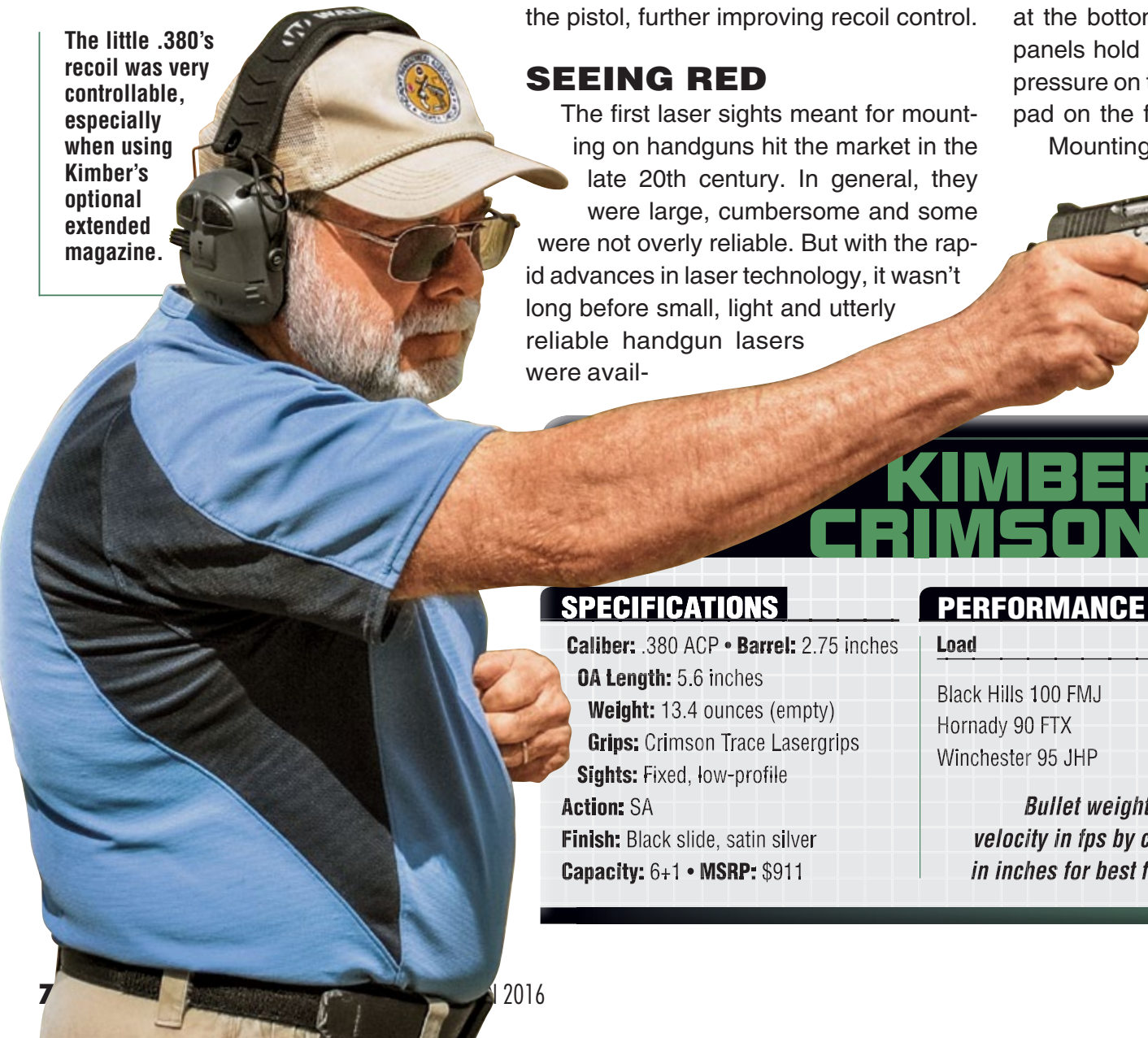
The beveled magazine well allows you to perform reloads with the six-round, single-stack magazine quickly and positively. Kimber also offers an extended seven-round magazine with a polymer basepad that provides a full, three-finger grip on the pistol, further improving recoil control.

SEEING RED

The first laser sights meant for mounting on handguns hit the market in the late 20th century. In general, they were large, cumbersome and some were not overly reliable. But with the rapid advances in laser technology, it wasn't long before small, light and utterly reliable handgun lasers were available.

Which is where the MCC earns the "Crimson" part of its moniker, as it comes standard with a set of nicely checkered rosewood Crimson Trace Lasergrips. The right grip panel features an integral laser sight while the power switch is located at the bottom of the left panel. Both grip panels hold batteries for the laser. Finger pressure on the rubber-encased activation pad on the front strap activates the laser.

Mounting a laser sight on a handgun used for defensive purposes provides a number of benefits. First of all, a laser helps you get on target quickly, especially in low-light conditions. You can ac-



KIMBER MICRO CRIMSON CARRY

SPECIFICATIONS		PERFORMANCE	
Caliber: .380 ACP • Barrel: 2.75 inches		Load	Velocity Accuracy
OA Length: 5.6 inches		Black Hills 100 FMJ	791 1.00
Weight: 13.4 ounces (empty)		Hornady 90 FTX	923 1.30
Grips: Crimson Trace Lasergrips		Winchester 95 JHP	901 0.90
Sights: Fixed, low-profile			
Action: SA			
Finish: Black slide, satin silver			
Capacity: 6+1 • MSRP: \$911			

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 7 yards.



THE BUG POCKET

curately fire the pistol without having to bring it up to eye level, which could be very useful if you're in an awkward position or must fire one-handed. The laser also allows the shooter to engage targets from behind cover without exposing too much of themselves to their opponent. Finally, "painting" an opponent with the laser has been known to have a mollifying effect on the situation.

CLOSE RANGE

I found my test MCC to be a finely made little pistol. The tolerances were tight and the high quality of the materials, fit and finish were all evident. But it's a Kimber, so what did you expect?

The single-action trigger broke crisply with a bit less than 7 pounds of pressure,



This target shows the Micro Crimson Carry's average accuracy at 7 yards using just the pistol's fixed, low-profile sights.

and the iron sights were large and easy to acquire. The controls were all in the proper 1911 positions and easy to manipulate.

To see what type of accuracy I could wring out of the MCC, I fired a series of five-shot groups from 7 yards with three brands of quality .380 ACP ammunition. While firing a pistol of this size across a rest is not an easy task, the iron sights were well regulated, allowing me to produce nine well-centered groups, several of which I believe were very impressive for a pistol of this class.

Considering the MMC's task in life as a close-range defensive handgun, I set a combat target out at the "pocket pistol" distance of 5 yards, switched on

The BUG Pocket is best described as a vest holster that is permanently affixed to the carrier of the officer's soft body armor. The backup gun can be discreetly carried and is readily accessible by either hand, and despite the fact that you carry the BUG Pocket on your chest, it is indeed low profile. Both regular (9.5 by 10.5 inches) and small (8.5 by 9.5 inches) sizes are offered.

The BUG Pocket was designed by Sergeant Randy Garcia, an LAPD veteran with over 30 years of experience. Well aware of the shortcomings of other carry systems, Garcia built a better mousetrap: The BUG Pocket has a tab at the top that is pulled down, allowing the officer immediate access to a hidden firearm. The BUG Pocket keeps the weapon secure during vigorous physical activity, such as a foot pursuit or subject control, and is made of quality materials. While the BUG is not designed to afford ballistic protection, it does have a removable Kevlar fragmentation plate that mitigates injury from any incoming rounds that strike the holstered backup gun.

The BUG Pocket is available in blue, black, white or tan and is mounted to the vest by double-stitching the four sides of the pocket to the vest carrier. My regular BUG Pocket secured a Sig Sauer P239, an S&W J-Frame and a Ruger LCP in fine style. If you are content with pocket-sized guns, the small BUG Pocket will do the trick—from under a zipper-front Woolrich Elite shirt, I was able to access my hidden gun in a timely manner. For the fastest possible draw, Garcia advocates removing your buttons and sewing them to the outside of your uniform shirt, then using Velcro to secure it.

With a soft trauma insert in the vest, the hidden handgun lies very flat and is virtually undetectable. The BUG Pocket is suitable for both male and female officers. Best of all, comfort is superior to other backup carry options—you are not burdened in any way while carrying that second handgun. With the BUG Pocket, there simply isn't any reason for going without an additional layer of defense. For more information, visit bugholster.com or call 562-756-4239. —Mike Boyle

The BUG Pocket is sewn to the carrier of the officer's soft body armor. With the flap secured, a backup gun can be accessed with either hand and stays put during high levels of physical activity.



With this snap-closure shirt, a backup gun can be drawn and brought into play very quickly.



KIMBER MICRO CRIMSON CARRY



The attractive Crimson Micro Carry comes with a matte black steel slide, a satin silver aluminum frame, a solid trigger with a serrated face and double-diamond-checked rosewood Crimson Trace Lasergrips.

the Crimson Trace laser and proceeded to see how the Kimber performed when fired from chest and waist levels. It quickly became obvious that I could not get the little red laser dot to stop bouncing around completely, but once I had the hang of it, I was quickly putting rounds on target with regularity. Most of these rounds impacted inside the target's X ring.

Early in my test firing I experienced a few failures to eject. Upon close examination of the pistol each time, I discovered that the slide stop lever had backed out of the frame slightly. Pushing it back in with my thumb let me keep shooting. On a more positive note, the checkered Crimson

Trace Lasergrips and checkered main-spring housing allowed a very secure purchase on the pistol, which greatly aided in the recoil-control department, something that cannot always be said of handguns of this class.

Except for that one problem, which seemed to resolve itself after I had run about 40 rounds through the pistol, the Kimber Micro Crimson Carry performed admirably. It is slim, short and lightweight with excellent sights, controls and ergonomics—just what you want in a pistol you will use for deep-cover carry.

Those who are looking for an ultra-concealable pistol that still fires a respectable cartridge—and who happen to be fans of single-action triggers—will find the Micro Crimson Carry a very attractive little package. For more information, visit kimberamerica.com or call 888-243-4522.



The on/off switch for the laser is located at the bottom of the left grip panel. Also note the left-side-mounted thumb safety.



Kimber expertly bevels the Micro Crimson Carry's magazine well for smooth, fumble-free reloads.

PMAG 17 GL9

GLOCK MAG

MSRP \$15.95

The PMAG 17 GL9 is a 17-round magazine featuring durable polymer construction, paint pen dot-matrix for labeling, tool-less floor plate removal for ease of maintenance, a visible full capacity indicator window, and Magpul reliability. Compatible with all full-size 9mm Glock handguns, as well as compact and sub-compact variants with some protrusion below the grip.

- Reinforced hybrid composite Polymer construction
- Fully loaded indicator
- High quality corrosion resistant stainless steel spring
- Anti-tilt self-lubricating follower
- Removable floor plate with paint pen dot matrix panels
- Compatible with all generations of Glock 9mm pistols
- Made in the USA



MAGPUL

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MS10 DESERT

M&S Armament's



A countersniper takes aim with an MS10 outfitted with a Nightforce 3.5-15x50mm NXS, a Wilcox RAPTOR light/laser, an Elitelron Revolution bipod and an AN/PVS-22 night-vision sight.

ENFORCER ★ ★ ★

7.62mm AR can turn cover into concealment with ease!

By Gary Paul Johnston



If you're looking for a new rifle, reputation may be a good place to start, but it is not necessarily everything.

Some companies making superb AR-platform rifles today were previously unheard of, but they earned their reputations through quality, range demonstrations and reporting in publications like this one.

For me, stumbling onto a great new rifle brings about as much enjoyment as reviewing one with a longstanding reputation of excellence,

maybe more. And that was the case when I came across the new MS10 from M&S Armament of Clinton, Indiana, a custom rifle company owned by a serious long-range rifle-shooter, Mario Marietta.

REVOLUTIONARY DESIGNS

I first met Mario Marietta in August 2014 while testing the HCAR precision rifle from Ohio Ordnance Works. Mario came with impressive credentials, which were backed up in the long-range testing we did and his extensive knowledge

of instant computer ranging. It was there that he told me of the new 7.62mm NATO AR he would soon bring to the market. He described it as being "everything you need and nothing you don't" for long-range precision shooting. He called the rifle the MS10.

Mario kept me informed on the progress of the MS10 and, in late November of last year, he shipped me a sample of the rifle equipped with a Nightforce 3.5-15x50mm NXS F1 scope. I ended up shooting the rifle at 100 yards on my range

with a foot of snow on the ground. Good training weather?

That's what I used to tell my SWAT team. Nonetheless, the sample rifle repeatedly produced three-shot groups hovering around 0.5 inches. The rifle's crisp, two-stage, 3-pound Rhino Arms match trigger helped make this a cinch.

At a Phoenix, Arizona, gun show the next month, Dale Pulling of Elitelron showed off the MS10 with the new Revolution bipod. To my fascination, Dale explained

“...with proper ammunition...and a 20-inch barrel, the MS10 can take on targets at 1,000 yards.”



The test MS10 rifle came with a Magpul MOE grip and STR stock in Flat Dark Earth to match the Cerakoted upper and lower.

how the bipod worked and what it was capable of doing. I returned home with the MS10 and the Revolution bipod for some quick testing before shipping it all back to Mario at M&S Armament.

Elitelron's Revolution bipod is like no other in the world. It is also built like a fine Swiss watch. This is not only reflected in what it can do but also in its

MSRP. Made of the best heat-treated steel and finished to military specifications, this bipod can be rotated 360 degrees and instantly locked with the rifle leveled. Thus, one can shoot around a corner standing up with the bipod at either side of the rifle and pushed forward for steadiness. Pushing forward on the

rifle locks up the bipod through a friction-utilizing action. It can also be instantly hard-locked by turning a knob.

Rotating the Revolution bipod to vertical, it can also be used against the top of a windowsill for a very high shot that can't be accomplished from the bottom of the window, and anything in between. Mounting adapters are available for virtually any handguard or forend, and the bipod is also rated for .50 BMG use.

With the preproduction MS10 and the Revolution bipod, I had no trouble placing the legs at 9 o'clock against a tree and putting five shots into 3 inches at 100 yards while standing. I simply leveled the rifle, got on target, pushed forward to lock the bipod and pressed the trigger. I did the same thing with the bipod at about 4 o'clock on an angled tree branch. It was with reluctance that I shipped the preproduction MS10 back with the bipod.

But in late April 2015 I received a production sample of the MS10 rifle for another round of testing.

STANDARD FEATURES & UPGRADES

While the MS10 does not come with an optic or iron sights, it does come with M&S Armament's custom free-floating handguard, which features short rails



The handguard features a long Picatinny top rail while Magpul M-LOK slots run along the sides and bottom, making it easy to add accessories like a light/laser and night vision.



at the forward 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions as well as Magpul M-LOK mounting slots along the sides and bottom in addition to the top rail.

M&S Armament offers the MS10 with either a 16- or 18-inch, match-grade barrel with a black nitride finish and polygonal rifling in a 1-in-10-inch twist rate. My test sample came with a 16-inch barrel with 5/8x24 threading and a Rhino muzzle brake installed. More standard features included a Melonite-finished bolt carrier group, an Odin Works adjustable gas block, a Magpul MOE grip and a Magpul STR adjustable buttstock.

In addition, my test MS10 came with several optional upgrades, including the Elitelron Revolution bipod, a desert tan Cerakote finish, a BCM Gunfighter charging handle, an Odin Works extended magazine release and a Battle Arms Development (BAD) ambidextrous safety selector. Mario made it clear that these options amount to more than the "all you need" portion of his slogan, especially in a long-

M&S ARMAMENT MS10

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 7.62mm NATO • **Barrel:** 16 inches
OA Length: 36.75-40.75 inches
Weight: 10.5 pounds (empty)
Stock: Magpul STR • **Sights:** None
Action: Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish: Flat Dark Earth Cerakote
Capacity: 20+1 • **MSRP:** \$2,350

PERFORMANCE

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal American Eagle 168 OTM	2,573	0.42
M118 175 FMJ	2,546	0.87

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.

range precision rifle, where he maintains that all you need is a great free-floating barrel, a great trigger, great ammunition and a capable shooter. Unnecessary accessories also add to the cost, but Mario says that some customers demand these and other "bells and whistles."

I added a set of Magpul MBUS Pro sights, which lie flat on the top rail and clear the objective lens with plenty of room. My test MS10 rifle also came with the same Nightforce 3.5-15x50mm NXS F1 scope from before in a LaRue mount

with an Accuracy 1st scope level, the best level I've ever used. Mario also sent the MS10 with a Wilcox RAPTAR light, laser and rangefinder system, which was furnished by PRG Defense. This light/laser setup has applications in law enforcement and military roles, especially in conjunction with night vision. An AN/PVS-22 night-vision sight was mounted on the MS10's top rail in front of the Nightforce scope and co-witnessed perfectly, making it easy to accurately locate targets at long distances at night.



The MS10's 100-yard accuracy was superb, as the best Federal five-shot group shows.



A few of the extras installed on the test rifle include a Bravo Company Gunfighter charging handle, a Battle Arms Development ambidextrous safety and an Odin Works mag release.

OUT TO 400 YARDS

To test the MS10's accuracy at the range, I used some Federal American Eagle 168-grain OTM ammunition as well as Copper Creek's 175-grain Gas Gun Match rounds. As opposed to .308 ammunition loaded primarily for bolt-action rifles, this load is especially tailored for 100-percent reliability and accuracy in M14 and AR-platform .308 rifles.

At 100 yards, the Federal load produced three-shot groups averaging 0.5 inches with approximately a 5- to 10-mph wind from the left. At 400 yards, this ammunition produced five-shot groups of around 5 inches under the same wind conditions. I also ran some GI M118 7.62mm NATO ammo through the MS10 at 100 yards for comparison.

Using the small supply of Copper Creek Gas Gun ammunition, I fired one group where all three shots basically created one hole. At 400 yards, five-shot groups averaged 4.3 inches, again with wind coming



Note the enlarged triggerguard and lack of a forward assist or dust cover.

from the left. The increased accuracy here was likely due to the bullet's higher ballistic coefficient, but I would expect the 20-inch-barreled version MS10 to do even better at 400 yards and beyond. Its operation was very smooth, there were no malfunctions, and the Rhino muzzle brake tamed recoil down to about that of a .22-250 cartridge.

While the MS10 may be Spartan compared to other more expensive rifles of its

type, it is by no means devoid of what it takes to do plenty of surgically accurate shooting at long distances far beyond ranges normally encountered by law enforcement. Mario Marietta reports that, with proper ammunition, such as the Copper Creek load, and a 20-inch barrel, the MS10 can take on targets at 1,000 yards. For more information, visit msrifles.com or call 765-505-1387.

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NEW PRODUCTS



BLACKHAWK SERPA LEVEL 3 LIGHT BEARING HOLSTER

The Level 3 Light Bearing Tactical Holster makes it possible to carry a gun with a BlackHawk light mounted during tactical operations. Offering a high-speed draw under stress and immediate lock-in upon reholstering, this light-bearing holster is ideal for even the most threatening tactical environments.



The rig features BlackHawk's SERPA Auto Lock release, a passive retention detent adjustment screw, a thumb-activated Pivot Guard for additional security and a full-length

holster body that protects your firearm's rear sight. The flexible thigh platform conforms to your leg with a Y-harness suspension system to distribute weight evenly. (blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732)

SAFARILAND ABA XTREME BODY ARMOR

Safariland has released an all-new line of ABA Xtreme body armor solutions for law enforcement.



The Xtreme's front subset features a SAATI Honeywell weave of DuPont Kevlar, a high-strength fiber that delivers superior protection and durability. Core Matrix Technology, comprising layers of 3D-fused fibers, creates a backstop with enhanced dampening and comfort as well as maximum stopping power. The new ballistic panels feature gender-specific, biomorphic designs that mimic the shape of the body and enhance comfort. The layering and unique blend of materials amplify comfort, keeping the panel light, thin and flexible. (safariland.com; 800-347-1200)

VIBRA-TITE VC-3 THREADMATE

Vibra-Tite VC-3 Threadmate is a soft thread-locking material that is applied to a fastener and then air-dried. Once assembled, the vibration-absorbing characteristics keep the fastener isolated and prevents loosening, making it perfect for your gun and firearm accessories. VC-3 can be easily adjusted, removed and reused. Also, it should be noted that Vibratite VC-3 is TACOM approved. (vc3.vibratite.com; 800-521-2663)



EAGLEYE SMARTREST NITROFORCE SR01

EagleEye Hunting Gear has unveiled the SmartRest NitroForce SR01, an ideal shooting platform for taking fast, accurate shots at moving or multiple targets. The NitroForce SR01 is built with a lightweight, corrosion-proof anodized alloy frame. The tension-controlled lateral range makes it easy for the shooter to move side-to-side, while opposing dual-loaded nitro pistons create zero force for vertical range and smooth control. The NitroForce SR01 needs no tools to operate. Optional magnetic feet are also available. (eagleeyehg.com)



TRIDENT TACTICAL TRIGGER

The new 4-Pound Tactical Trigger from Trident Trigger is a vast improvement over mil-spec models to enhance your varmint or target AR-platform rifle's accuracy, all while being very affordable. The curved, single-stage trigger is hand-tuned and tested for a crisp break at 4 pounds (3 pounds available). The trigger installation kit includes a custom, hand-tuned and fitted hammer, a full-power hammer spring, the trigger, a full-power trigger spring, a precision disconnect and a disconnect spring. (tridenttrigger.com; 530-558-8010)



EAGLE INDUSTRIES AIRBORNE LAW POUCH AUTO

Some law enforcement officers, due to their missions and operating areas, need to carry concealed at all times.



Air marshals are a good example of this—passengers can't see that they're carrying a firearm. Luckily, Eagle Industries has released a new product that will make life a little easier for those who protect our airlines, or those who just need a low-profile carry system. The Airborne Law Pouch Auto is a shoulder rig with a holster on one side for your semi-auto and pouches on the other to accommodate one set of handcuffs and three magazines, or any similar-sized item. (eagleindustries.com; 888-343-7547)

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NO SECOND CHANCES

Avoid these common pitfalls to make sure your first shot counts!

BY DAVID BAHDE

Over the years, I've heard a number of stories regarding the things people have done to their department-issued weapons—stories that would give most people significant pause.

Rivalling some of the stories told by my active-duty friends, these things range from the officer who used his issued pistol as a hammer to the one who used his shotgun to prop open the trunk of his cruiser. Most cases are mildly amusing and just hard on the gear; others are downright frightening.

Cops are just plain hard on equipment, and this is one reason why many agencies now require that officers own their weapons—when they pay for the gear, they

As an LE marksman, you must be able to take action when required. That means regular training and top-notch care for your precision rifle and gear.



Your bolt-action rifle needs to be able to handle tough abuse while maintaining its precision.

tend to take better care of it. However, in most cases officers continue to be issued weapons, including precision rifles. After years on and in command of a police sniper unit, I've found several critical components for deploying a precision rifle.

In a tactical engagement, you generally get one shot with your precision rifle—seldom are there second chances. Your target is small and moving, and time is short. You may be in position for hours, but when it comes time to press the trigger, you may only have a matter of seconds. It is imperative that your rifle shoots where it's aimed, no matter where it's been since the last training. The rifle goes in ready to take that shot and must come out the same way. There is no opportunity to "sight in" and maybe no time to do anything but aim, hold and squeeze.

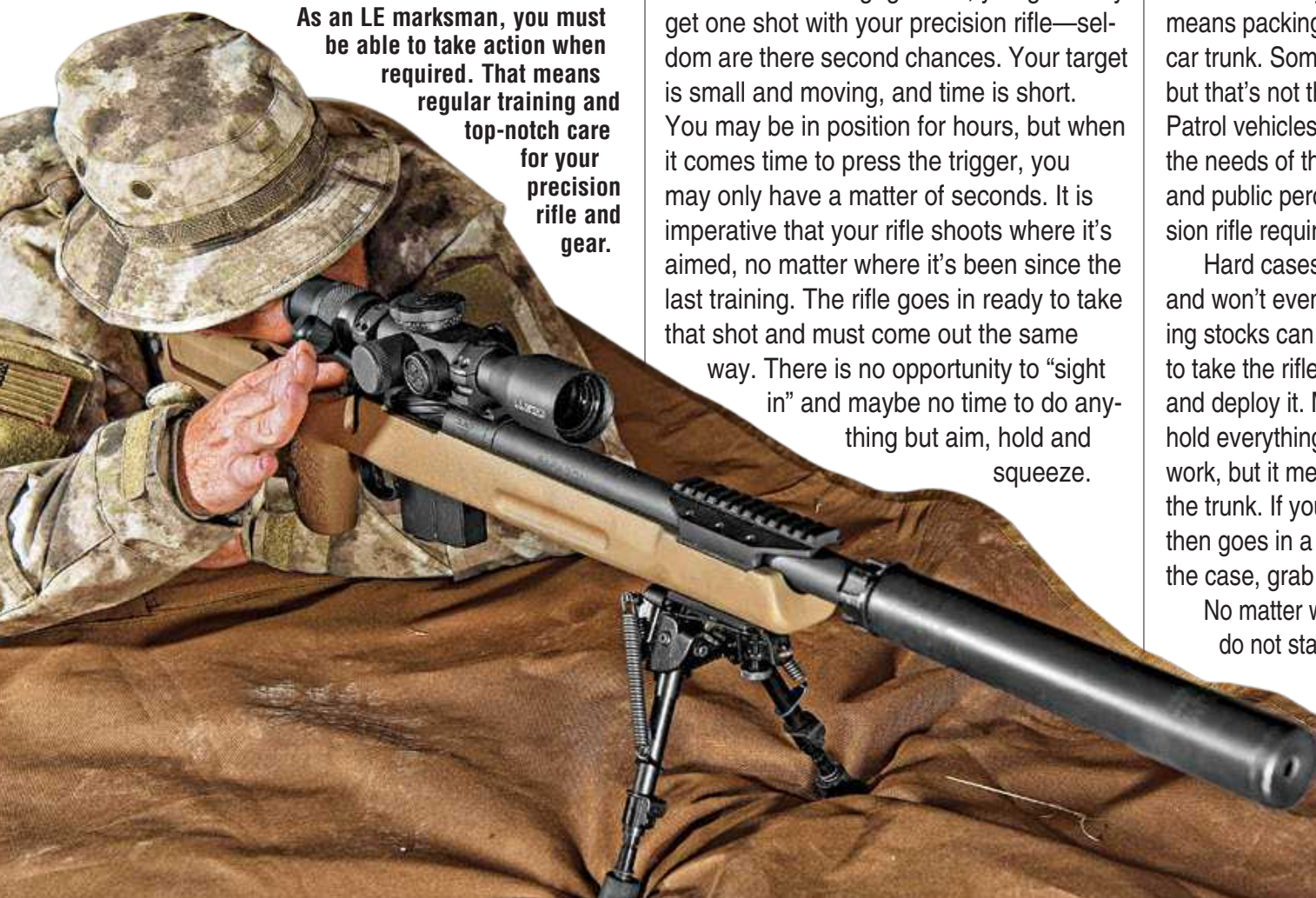
With that kind of pressure, you really need to take very good care of your rifle.

BAG IT & TAG IT

Very few things are more packed than a police officer's trunk. Multitasking is the word of the day for most agencies, and that means packing everything you need into a car trunk. Some are lucky and get an SUV; but that's not the case for most officers. Patrol vehicles are seldom chosen based on the needs of the officer but on budget limits and public perception. So storing your precision rifle requires some thought.

Hard cases are great, but they're slow and won't even fit in many car trunks. Folding stocks can help, but you will still need to take the rifle out, insert it in a drag bag and deploy it. Many officers have packs that hold everything but the rifle, and that can work, but it means you need more room in the trunk. If you can put the rifle in a bag that then goes in a case, that will do—just open the case, grab the bag and go.

No matter what you choose to do, please do not stack all your gear on top of the rifle, especially if it is in a soft case. You would be sur-





prised at what can happen, especially if your gun isn't very rugged to begin with. I've seen target knobs knocked off, scopes moved and lenses broken, so I know that it's critical for the rifle to be carefully stored. This is a lifesaving precision tool—treat it like one.

CARRY CONCERNS

As a rule, you are going to move from your car to a final position. This may be the most critical aspect of caring for your rifle. If you are going to use a drag bag, ensure it holds your rifle securely. Hearing your rifle slide out of your bag while you are on the run is more than disconcerting. Depending on the surface your rifle lands on and how hard it hits, you just may be out of the fight. As easy as it is to leave the rifle unzipped after training, don't. Secure it in the bag. If you use a pack with a pocket, be certain it is secured. These packs are great, but if you get sideways on a fence or other barrier, the gun will slide right out. You should be able to turn the bag upside down without losing the rifle.

If you use a sling, choose a good one with solid swivels and attachments. Check the sling regularly to make sure it's strong. I have seen a rifle come careening down a rooftop because a swivel let loose. Needless to say, the officer who owned the rifle was not very happy. My rifles are stout, but they



Damaging your stock could result in a loose hinge or cheek riser, which will make it a lot harder to get on target quickly.

to the target is worse. Put it in the same place and follow a pattern. Above all, make certain it goes back in the bag, ready to deploy immediately, and back in the car where it belongs.

Your precision rifle is no different than your patrol rifle or shotgun. Its bolt is closed on an empty chamber with the magazine loaded. How it is loaded depends on your gun and protocol, but it should *always* be ready to deploy. Never put your rifle in your trunk empty. Murphy's Law will strike, and you will deploy the gun, forgetting it was empty. Truth is, you should follow your cleaning regimen at the range and put the rifle back in the bag, prepared for deployment. At a recent impromptu drill at a school, an officer ran the bolt on an empty gun. Worse yet, his ammunition was in the trunk. Why? Because he *meant* to take the rifle home and clean it—he just forgot. Lucky for him, that was training. In real life, he may be living with a dead hostage. As a SWAT officer, you are subject to deployments prior to, during or after training. Your gun must be ready.

PARTING SHOTS

The vast majority of police officers trained as precision marksmen will never fire their weapons on a deployment. It is a situation that breeds complacency, a condition that will get you or someone else killed. You really must treat your rifle with care and develop a routine that keeps it ready at all times. As fun as training is, this is serious business. The more professional you are in training and in preparation, the more likely you will perform capably in real life. Ninety percent of successful application is based on proper training and preparation, so make it count every time.

wouldn't be okay after falling from a rooftop onto concrete below. In this case, the officer grabbed for the rifle, missed and almost followed it down the roof. Also check the flush cups to make sure they are seated. They are commonly seated just enough to feel like they are solidly in—that is, until you go for a run. You must reach your firing position with your rifle in one piece. A strong bag, sling or other carry device ensures that.

READY TO DEPLOY

If you've taken my advice, your rifle is likely sitting on top of everything else in the trunk. When you get something from it, the rifle is going to get moved or removed. So watch where you set it down. I observed a truck run over one at a training years ago, and it was pretty sickening. The officer had set his rifle behind the vehicle next to him and then walked to the front of the car. The driver had no idea and backed right over the rifle. I have also seen one driven away on top of an officer's car before flying off at the first turn. Please be careful where you put that rifle, and keep track of it.

When you are done training or at deployments, always complete an inventory—write it down if you have to. As embarrassing as it is to run over your rifle, leaving it in the yard next



Whether you use flush-cup sling swivels or rail-mounted sockets, make sure your sling is properly attached before a deployment.



“IT HAPPENED TO ME!”



Big Stock photo

SUICIDAL MADMAN

Our squad had just started some trigger time on the range, working with our handguns, when radio reached us on the firing line.

SWAT was needed in the East Division for an emotionally disturbed person (EDP) armed with a knife on a rooftop. It was now time for the team to quickly pack up and caravan out to this priority assignment.

I knew the location well. It was in my old stomping grounds when I started my policing career in patrol. That part of town was jumping in narcotics sales: heroin, crack and weed. This particular block was just two blocks away from one of the busiest heroin corners in the city, if not the whole East Coast, at that time. The location was also one of the active “alphabet-

lettered” streets going north and south, a main thoroughfare in and out of the neighborhood. To add to the excitement, it was a very congested residential block of row houses where all of the rooftops were connected and lots of people were out to watch the police activity. Our subject had free reign up and down the block via this elevated position on the blacktop roof. It was a lot of ground to cover for the officers surrounding all sides of the street.

We relieved the patrol officers and tried to ascertain exactly where the man

“ Our subject had free reign up and down the block via this elevated position on the blacktop roof. It was a lot of ground to cover for the officers surrounding all sides of the street. ”

was located. A fire department truck with a large mounted ladder was already in place to reach the roof. Our first two officers climbed the ladder with caution, as the suspect appeared, paced back and forth, and then slipped out of sight. The subject was a male in his early 20s, and from what we learned from family and friends, he was suffering from mental illness and symptoms of depression.

We found out from our rear containment team that this male gained access to the roof via a tree. This block had several dilapidated and abandoned homes used by the addicts and drug boys to run through to escape the police. This “tree” was once a small weed that had grown out of control over the many years unattended, found in neighborhoods lost to poverty and crime. We had to pay particular attention to this tree if our suspect were to attempt to make his way off of the roof. *(Please turn to page 94)*

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ICE SENTINELS

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agents are now carrying G26 Gen4s as backups.

BY DONALD J. MIHALEK



According to the 9/11 Commission, one of the failures that occurred on September 11, 2001, was a lack of coordination.

The Commission recommended that the federal government reorganize its agencies and form one large department dedicated to protecting our homeland.

In March 2003, the Homeland Security Act set into motion what would be the single-largest government reorganization since the creation of the Department of Defense. Many agencies were transferred from their legacy departments into the new Department of Homeland Security

(DHS). When the legacy U.S. Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arrived in DHS, they were summarily decommissioned as separate agencies, reorganized and merged into a new agency.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, was formed and tasked with protecting the homeland from terrorists and enforcing over 400 federal laws, leading it to become one of the largest federal law enforcement agencies.

COLD AS ICE

When ICE was created, it was granted a unique combination of civil and criminal

authorities to better protect national security and public safety. These authorities range from terrorism investigation and apprehension to recovering antiquities. Over the years, ICE has grown to more than 20,000 strong with a presence in all 50 states and 48 foreign countries. ICE's core missions include immigration enforcement, stopping the trafficking of people and goods, and preventing terrorism.

Immigration enforcement is the largest single area of responsibility for ICE. While certain responsibilities and close cooperation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and others require significant ICE assets near the border, the majority of immigration enforcement work for ICE takes place in the country's interior.

ICE special agents strive to help businesses secure a lawful workforce and enforce immigration laws against those who encourage and rely on unauthorized workers, sometimes taking advantage of their situation to offer low pay and inadequate conditions. Multiple programs help ICE focus on finding and removing illegal aliens who are criminals, fugitives



ICE agents keep their pistols drawn on a suspect during a vehicle-stop training exercise.



or recent arrivals. Immigration enforcement entails cracking down on those who produce fraudulent documents to enable unlawful activity. Additionally, several robust efforts seek to continue improving the safe and humane detention and removal of persons subject to those actions.

ICE also has jurisdiction to track down and stop the illegal smuggling of goods and persons into the United States. This includes the illegal trafficking of children who are sexually exploited in the U.S. and abroad and combatting the international trade of child pornography.

Stopping illegal contraband, including guns, money, drugs and counterfeit merchandise, is also part of ICE's enforcement work. Antiquities are a special area of focus for ICE, and recently an ICE investigation returned more than 60 Iraqi cultural artifacts that had been smuggled into the U.S. The case commenced after ICE agents seized a looted artifact in August 2008 after an antiquities dealer based in Dubai shipped it to New York. The investigation led to the identification of an international network dealing in illicit cultural artifacts, and eventually more artifacts were seized and those involved were arrested.

Most ICE offices and programs also have a role in preventing terrorism. Several are on the front lines of this effort, either identifying dangerous persons before they enter the U.S. or finding them as they violate immigration or customs laws. ICE also works to prevent the illegal export of U.S. technology that could be used or repurposed to do harm.

ON THE FRONT LINES

ICE has become one of the frontline agencies in the federal government. Due



ICE operators are responsible for tracking down and stopping illegal trafficking.

to its jurisdiction, it goes up against some of the worst in its quest for justice. That quest has taken ICE agents around the world, into the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan and into the cartel-infested territories south of the border.

Once ICE became a reality, one of the first issues the agency had to address was what duty weapon its new agents would carry. The DHS is primarily a non-Glock carrying department, but due to the unique work ICE does, it needed to ensure that its agents had every tool available on and off duty.

Duty weapons are larger and heavier than what an officer may want to carry, especially off duty. Because of their full size, duty weapons are not ideal for concealed carry. What most want is a small, lightweight weapon that is easy to carry concealed. Due to ICE's vast jurisdiction, this forced the agency to create a list of weapons that offered multiple options, including Glock pistols.

Within this list of weapons, the one that stands out is the Glock 26 Gen4 in 9mm, one of the company's distinguished

"Baby Glocks." It is one of the most talked about off-duty weapons in law enforcement. Its small size makes it easily concealable, but it can certainly pack a punch.

When Glock designed the G26, it was revolutionary, and it has been one of the most sought-after concealed-carry options since its release in 1994. The Gen4 interchangeable backstrap design allows you to instantly customize the pistol's grip to adapt to an individual shooter's hand size. The surface of the G26 Gen4's frame employs advanced texturing for a sure grip. Internally, the new Glock dual recoil spring assembly substantially increases the life



An ICE agent drops into a tunnel used by Mexican cartels to funnel drugs into the U.S.

of the system. Finally, a large reversible magazine catch accommodates left- and right-handed operators.

The G26 Gen4's 10+1 capacity also offers plenty of firepower in an off-duty weapon. In many corners, the G26 has become a replacement for the traditional snub-nose, five-shot revolvers that were once the mainstay backup weapons in law enforcement.

ICE's embrace of the G26 Gen4 as an off-duty weapon has been met with rave reviews by the troops. A few years ago, in a move that was considered "outside the box" at the time, ICE started allowing its agents to carry their off-duty weapons versus their issued duty weapons. Reports are that since that decision was made, many agents have chosen to "dig deep" and buy an off-duty weapon. This makes it much easier for ICE agents to carry ultra-reliable Glock pistols while defending our country.

SPECIFICATIONS GLOCK 26 GEN4

CALIBER: 9mm

BARREL: 3.42 inches

OA LENGTH: 6.41 inches

WEIGHT: 21.71 ounces (empty)

GRIPS: Polymer • **SIGHTS:** Fixed

ACTION: Safe Action **FINISH:** • Matte black

CAPACITY: 10+1 • **MSRP:** N/A




“IT HAPPENED TO ME!”

Continued from page 90

Observers saw that the man had a 5-inch-bladed knife that he was toying with. We were able to get a five-man arrest team safely onto the roof when the suspect was a few houses away from the ladder. The suspect was not speaking to us, and he made occasional threatening motions with the knife to stay back.

At one point the young man put the knife down by his feet but did not surrender or acknowledge our commands. It seemed that he suffered from auditory hallucinations or voices in his head, for he appeared to be conversing with himself. After a couple of hours of this stalemate, the supervisor formulated a plan to use a shotgun and fire a less-lethal beanbag round at the subject. The male was standing with his back to our rear containment team in the alley, and one of our operators took aim to strike him in the back. Our strategy was for the beanbag impact to startle him, pushing him forward—away from the knife near his feet—so we could safely arrest him. The plan was radioed to the team and the patrol officers in the area to notify everyone of the less-lethal beanbag round being deployed so as to avoid confusion about the type of firearm discharged.

Then, a loud *crack* came from the pump shotgun, and the beanbag found its mark. The suspect stumbled forward, away from the knife, and it stunned him for just a second. We moved to grab him, but he bolted straight to the edge of the roof, some 10 yards away, and just kept running.

He wasn't running to jump off the roof, per se, but he ran like he thought he could run in the air. He quickly dropped from the roof of the two-story home to the concrete below and suffered serious injuries to his legs and arms. It was such a bizarre sight that we all looked at each other and could not believe had he done it. I found it strange that the suspect kept quiet from his injuries—he didn't moan or yell—he just rocked on the ground and grimaced as the medics treated him. He did not receive any serious head trauma and hopefully is now healed and being helped professionally. It was one of those jobs you always remember because it is so unusual. It was so fitting, too, because that area of the city is nicknamed the “Land of Oz,” where the abnormal is normal. Oh, how true! —**BH, PA** 

THE RODNEY KING RIOTS


Continued from page 10

SEEKING THE TRUTH

The videotape of the “beating” lasted nearly a minute, but only one segment was repeated again and again on TV, approximately 10 seconds in which it appeared to the uneducated observer that police were brutalizing a helpless, unresisting man. Not until the trial, televised on Court TV, did most Americans in general and Angelenos in particular get to see the whole video in detail. King's lunge for the Beretta pistol in Officer Laurence Powell's holster at the opening of the video is plain to see. The educated eye can just as clearly observe an ebb and flow in the police response. When King stopped resisting, the officers stopped swinging their batons, one even reaching for his handcuffs. When King moved his hands into a prison technique called “the Folsom roll” (in which the suspect pistons himself against the officer, knocking him down into a position where his holstered gun can be snatched), the police could be seen to move in again with their batons.

However, these details never became anywhere near as widely known as the perception of brutal officers whaling on a non-resisting man. A significant part of the community had been brainwashed by the media to believe that someone like them had been brutalized by the cops, and that those cops' acquittal was therefore an outrage that cried out for revenge.

Today, many police departments have taken a better approach, including the LAPD itself. Allegations of police brutality today are more likely to be met early, perhaps with press conferences in which video evidence is shown and explained in freeze frame. This helps the law enforcement community, the media and the public better understand the facts. This approach can go far toward preventing widespread public misunderstanding that can lead to the sort of widespread collective rage that left 53 dead and 2,000 people injured in Los Angeles in 1992.

The philosopher George Santayana was right when he said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” 

WINDHAM .308

Continued from page 24


the real world of law enforcement, the R16SFST-308 was more than accurate out to 400 yards using the Horus H60 reticle for holds.

For most of the range testing, I used Gorilla Ammunition's 175-grain SMK ammo Loaded using Federal Brass, Sierra MatchKing bullets and match primers, it is proving very accurate. I've tested it in several rifles now, and it consistently performs well, including in the Windham R16SFST-308. Given their popularity with LE agencies, I also used Hornady's 168-grain TAP and Black Hills' 155-grain A-MAX. Both did well on steel, and the Hornady load was a bit more accurate during group testing.

FINAL IMPRESSIONS

Weighing in at 7.65 pounds unloaded, this rifle is pretty light. It was easy to move around the range and carried well when slung. It was plenty handy working around my truck and on barricades and other obstacles. Compared to heavier rifles, the recoil was a bit stout, but that's just physics. There are a few muzzle brakes out there that are considered acceptable for duty use that may prove helpful.

The supplied sling is simple and designed for use with the A2 stock sling swivel; move to another sling and you will need a second QD swivel. You can use the cups at the rear of the receiver, and the extra mounts at the front of the handguard were a nice touch. My preferred carry method attaches the front of the sling at the rear of the handguard. This makes the rifle carry close to the body so it won't swing around and interfere with gear as much. If I am trying to get steady with the sling, or it is behind my back, the forward position is advantageous. This setup gives you plenty of options.

The MSRP of the R16SFST-308 puts it in the lower quadrant of the .308/7.62mm AR pack. You get a solid performer for the price. In fact, the R16SFST-308 ran better than some rifles I've tested with price tags much higher. It was completely reliable with excellent accuracy. If you are looking for a patrol rifle in .308/7.62mm NATO, this is a fantastic choice. For more information, visit windhamweaponry.com or call 855-808-1888. 

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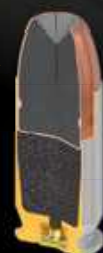
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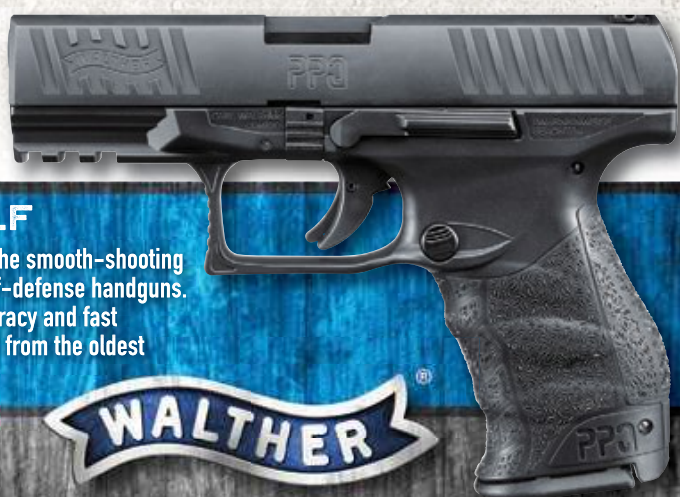
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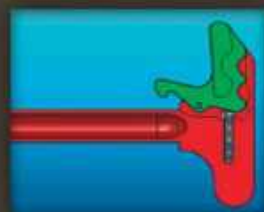


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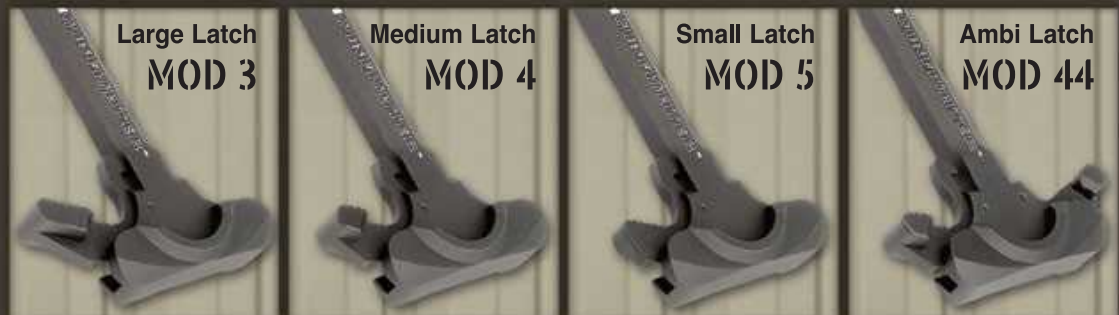


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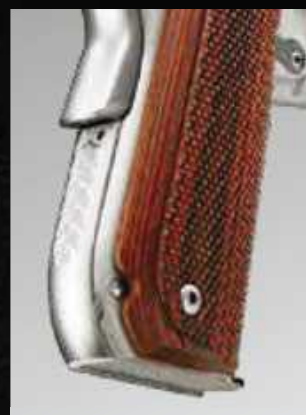
Super Carry pistols in .45 ACP establish the standard for concealed carry and personal defense. Lightweight, accurate and powerful, they include all important features. There are four models to choose from, including the Super Carry Pro which weighs in at 28 oz.



Super Carry pistols have highly refined features including night sights with cocking shoulder, Carry Melt treatment and specialized scallop slide serrations.



Master Carry pistols share the same Rounded Heel Frame design and are offered in three sizes, and feature Crimson Trace Lasergrips and Tactical Wedge night sights.



A Round Heel Frame makes Super and Master Carry pistols easier to conceal and comfortable to shoot. Serrated mainspring housing welds grip to palm, ensuring fast sight picture recovery between shots.

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WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™



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